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Japan

Further on Soviet Foreign Minister's Visit

2d Round of Talks Begin

OW3003005591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0040 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Foreign Ministers Taro Nakayama of Japan and Aleksandr Bessmertnykh of the Soviet Union began a second round of talks in Tokyo Saturday morning to discuss bilateral affairs, particularly a decades-long territorial dispute.

The two men are scheduled to talk four hours and then hold a 90- minute luncheon meeting.

Bessmertnykh arrived in Japan Friday on a three-day visit to prepare for President Mikhail Gorbachev's April 16-19 state visit. He will later call on Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and hold a press conference.

During the second round, the two foreign ministers will sound out each other's positions on the dispute over four northern islands occupied and annexed by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

Bessmertynkh's delegation includes Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, which has administrative jurisdiction over the disputed islands and demands a voice in their disposition.

Japan wants the Soviet Union to acknowledge Japan's sovereignty over the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—which lie off Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's four main islands.

Many political analysts here expect President Gorbachev to bring with him a proposal to return Shikotan and the Habomais as promised in the 1956 Japan-Soviet joint declaration which restored diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Before leaving on a three-day China visit Sunday, Bessmertnykh will visit the Kansai region of western Japan, including the ancient capital of Kyoto.

During the first round of talks Friday, the foreign ministers discussed international affairs and agreed it was urgent that the issue of arms exports to the Middle East be addressed in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf war, Japanese officials said.

In the talks, Nakayama reprimanded the Soviet Union for being among the major exporters of arms to Iraq, and urged Moscow to accept responsibility for the consequences of having helped transform Iraq into a hostile regional military power.

Bessmertnykh reportedly told Nakayama that his country was greatly interested in the Japanese foreign minister's call for controls on weapons exports. "We feel that controls on the arms race are necessary and that they must be implemented in an urgent manner," the Soviet foreign minister was quoted as saying.

Ministers View Gorbachev Visit

OW3003045791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0444 GMT 30 Mar 9.

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The foreign ministers of Japan and the Soviet Union agreed Saturday that the coming visit by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev should mark a turning point in relations between the two countries, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Officials said Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh also agreed that during Gorbachev's visit the two countries would conclude more than 11 agreements for cooperation in economic, technical, cultural, and environmental matters.

The two foreign ministers Saturday held a second round of talks at the Foreign Ministry's Iikura Guest House in Tokyo to prepare for Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit. Their first round of talks were Friday.

Nakayama and Bessmertnytkh stated their common positions Saturday in talks devoted to bilateral relations.

In another session held Friday evening, they reviewed recent developments in the international arena and agreed on the need to curb arms sales.

Bessmertnykh, who arrived in Japan Friday on a three-day visit, expressed confidence that Gorbachev's visit would "open a new page in Soviet-Japan relations."

Officials said he noted the visit will occur at a time in which "the international situation is at an important stage."

Both sides, he said, should continue efforts to ensure that the talks between Gorbachev and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu have "an abundance of concrete substance."

Nakayama said Gorbachev's visit will be significant as it will be the first ever by a top Soviet leader to Japan.

He also noted the backdrop of momentous changes in world politics, especially in Europe, prompted by the "new thinking" in Soviet foreign policy pursued by Gorbachev.

Officials said Nakayama told Bessmertnykh that Japan wants both sides to work to bring about "a new outlook for making great strides in the development of Japan-Soviet relations."

He said Japan is striving to see a "qualitative shift" in the relationship.

To that end, Nakayama called for the two countries to "write an end to the war period" by concluding a World War II peace treaty.

He reiterated Japan's position that a treaty could only be signed if the two countries resolved a dispute over a group of Northern islands occupied and annexed by the Soviets just after World War II.

Japan wants Gorbachev to acknowledge Japan's sovereignty over the four islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai group—which lie off Hokkaido, the northernmost of Japan's four main islands.

Many political analysts in Japan expect Gorbachev to propose returning Shikotan and the Habomais as promised in a joint declaration signed in 1956.

Japan, however, has indicated that only recognition of Japanese sovereignty over all four islands would open the way for a massive infusion of economic assistance to the Soviet Union.

While the prospective peace treaty remains conditional on a territorial settlement, officials said the two foreign ministers confirmed their countries' intentions to enter more than 11 agreements when Gorbachev visits.

Bessmertynykh told the Soviet parliament last Tuesday that "some 11 to 16" agreements are under preparation.

Nakayama said he was satisfied with the progress on finalizing the 11 agreements the two sides agreed to conclude in talks held last September in Tokyo and in January in Moscow.

Nakayama hailed the "constructive dialogue and cooperation" on international problems amid the transition to "a new world order" after the cold war.

Bessmertnykh's talks with Nakayama will be followed by a meeting with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, when he is expected to present a message from Gorbachev.

Bessmertynkh's delegation includes Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister of the huge Russian Federation, which has administrative jurisdiction over the disputed islands and demands a voice in their disposition.

It was the first time that the Russian Federation has been represented at such a high level in Soviet talks with Japan.

Nakayama Remarks on Islands

OW3003055191 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] In the second round of talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said that he would like to put an end to the postwar Japanese-Soviet ties by settling the territories issue for good. Thus, he urged the Soviet side to make a political decision aimed at the settlement of the territories issue. Now, we will report from the Foreign Ministry.

[Unidentified correspondent] The second foreign ministerial talks between Foreign Ministers Nakayama and Bessmertnykh started at 0900 today at the Iikura Hall and are still continuing. At the beginning of the talks, Foreign Minister Nakayama said that Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu indicated last night that he was anxious to meet Bessmertnykh. In response, Bessmertnykh said that he was also harboring great expectations for today's meeting. After that, discussions focused on bilateral issues, centering around the Northern territories issue, that exist between Japan and the Soviet Union. Both sides exchanged views on the documents that will be signed when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Japan. During the talks, Nakayama said: I welcome, from the bottom of my heart, the fact that President Gorbachev has started to pay serious attention to the Japanese-Soviet relations. Japan wants to exert all-out efforts to make a qualitative change in Japanese-Soviet ties. Also, for that purpose, we would like to put an end to the postwar period of Japan and the Soviet Union by settling the territorial issue for good.

Thus, he called for the radical improvement of Japanese-Soviet ties by solving the territories issue when Gorbachev visits Japan. In response, Bessmertnykh said: President Gorbachev's visit will open a new chapter in Japanese-Soviet relations. We must exert efforts in order to make the visit affluent in its content. I think that a solid foundation for strengthening and developing the relations is being formed from the viewpoint of good neighborly relations between Japan and the Soviet Union.

Thus, he indicated his view that he was satisfied with preparations made so far for Gorbachev's visit to Japan. During the talks, both sides confirmed documents that will be produced when Gorbachev visits Japan. The talks are scheduled to continue until 1300. Both sides are currently exchanging views on the northern territories issue, which is the focal point. Regarding this, Nakayama urged the Soviet side to make a political decision by approving Japan's sovereignty over the four islands. Thus, attention is focused on Bessmertnykh's response. In addition to holding a meeting this afternoon with Prime Minister Kaifu for the first time, Bessmertnykh is scheduled to hold a news conference with Japanese and foreign reporters at the Japan Press Club this evening.

Bessmertnykh on Islands Issue

OW3003140791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1348 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said Saturday the Soviet Union and Japan must face up to the reality of their territorial dispute and reach an agreement on where to draw the borderline between the two countries.

"The question of where to draw the borderline is a very important issue," Bessmertnykh told reporters. "We must not hide our head in the sand like an ostrich, neglecting the reality that does exist."

Bessmertnykh's remarks at the Japan National Press Club represented Moscow's boldest public confirmation to date of the existence of a dispute over four islands off Hokkaido, which it has denied for over three decades.

"Until very recently, we almost never touched upon this," said the Soviet foreign minister, who arrived in Japan on Friday on a three-day visit. "We did make a statement that there was no existence of such a problem."

He said the change in stance arose from a new awareness that if the two countries are to place their relations on a firm foundation, "then all the problems related to the bilateral relationship must be addressed."

Bessmertnykh confirmed that when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Japan from April 16-19 and meets Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, the dispute over the islands, which the Soviets occupied and annexed at the end of World War II, "will be discussed from all angles between the leaders."

"We are aiming at discussing very candidly the question of the borders ... in a way which will be acceptable to both sides," he said, adding that a "realistic solution" is possible if both sides keep "a cool head."

"Otherwise there will remain resentment between the peoples of the two countries," he said.

Bessmertnykh, suggesting that the status quo could be altered, said, "between which islands and islets the line will be drawn will all depend upon our capabilities in the future."

Bessmertnykh, in Tokyo to conclude the preparations for Gorbachev's visit, met earlier Saturday with Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama.

Many political analysts in Japan expect Gorbachev will propose to settle the dispute by handing over two of the four disputed islands—Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets.

That could be done by resurrecting a provision in the 1956 Japan- Soviet Joint Declaration that said those two islands were to go to Japan after a peace treaty was signed.

The provision was unilaterally renounced by Moscow in 1960 after Japan renewed its security treaty with the United States amid an escalation of the cold war.

Asked about the present-day validity of the 1956 declaration, Bessmertnykh said only that, due to the past actions of both countries, "a new situation was created ... and the two states are trying to respond to it."

But Japan is pressing for Soviet recognition of Japanese sovereignty over all four islands—including Kunashiri and Etorofu.

Analysts say that would open the way for a massive infusion of Japanese economic assistance needed by Moscow.

Bessmertnykh acknowledged the Soviet Union is facing "an economic crisis" and that it is in need of economic assistance from foreign countries.

But he opposed Japan's linkage of economic ties with the territorial dispute, calling it a pressure tactic that is "not a wise choice" because it runs the risk of damaging both political and economic ties.

"I do not see any reason why we would not be able to pursue the resolution of both issues at the same time," he said.

Questioned on provisions in the U.N. Charter that labeled Japan and several other countries as enemy states, Bessmertnykh called the provisions "totally outdated."

"They should not be applied to Japan," he said, saying that since the end of the war Japan has made "a totally fresh start as a country."

Bessmertnykh said he told Nakayama in their talks Friday that it is important the charter be revised in a way in which "the new international order that was created after the war will not change."

The charter ensures the five victorious powers of World War II permanent seats on the decision-making Security Council, while other countries must wait their turn to occupy the remaining 10 revolving seats.

Officials Remark on USSR Stand

OW3003091591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on Saturday appeared to have moved a step closer to recognizing the existence of a bilateral territorial dispute over four northern islands, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

But Bessmertnykh, in talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Nakayama, did not reveal what position Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will take on the territorial dispute when he visits Japan on April 16-19.

In a four-hour round of talks, Bessmertnykh and Nakayama agreed on the need for their countries' top leadership to make "political decisions" to pave the way for a belated bilateral peace treaty and full normalization of relations, officials said.

Officials took as a new sign of Soviet flexibility on the islands Bessmertnykh's frequent use of the Russian words "problema territorialnogo razmevaniya," or the problem of territorial delimitation.

"It should be no surprise that, at the present stage of negotiations for a peace treaty, both countries have now come face- to-face with the problem of territorial delimitation," Bessmertnykh was quoted as saying.

One official explained that the Soviet foreign minister had used the expression once before—when he met with Nakayama last January in Moscow—but only once on that occasion. "We felt that this time Bessmertnykh used it freely and without any reluctance."

This official said the Soviet Union's aversion to the word "territorial" has gradually faded away.

Moscow has long insisted that there is no territorial dispute between the two countries, because the results of World War II are irreversible.

Nakayama was quoted as telling Bessmertnykh that the first visit by a top Soviet leader to Japan ever is an

important opportunity to accelerate the two countries' talks on a peace treaty and to open up better prospects for a settlement.

"The work on concluding a peace treaty is now in a stage in which a 'political decision' is called for," Nakayama said, alluding to Japan's insistence on a territorial settlement as a precondition for a peace treaty.

Bessmertnykh is currently in Tokyo on a three-day visit through Sunday to lay the groundwork for Gorbachev's visit.

Bessmertnykh told Nakayama the two sides are approaching the stage where political decisions are required, but stressed that any resolution to the two countries' problems must be "mutually acceptable."

He was quoted as saying a political decision on the part of the Soviet Union would have to take into account all aspects of the problem at hand, including the historical dimensions and public opinion.

Despite Japanese accusations of "Stalinist expansionism," Moscow has remained adamant over its historical justification for possessing the disputed islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomais.

It pledged in the 1956 Joint Declaration to transfer Shikotan and the Habomais to Japan, not on historical grounds, but "to meet the wishes of Japan and taking into account the interests of the Japanese state."

Many political analysts here expect Gorbachev to propose during his visit the transfer of Shikotan and the Habomais, which could be justified by resurrecting the 1956 declaration.

But Japan has indicated that only recognition of Japanese sovereignty over all four islands would open the way for the massive infusion of Japanese economic assistance desired by the Soviet Union.

Nakayama told Bessmertnykh that a peace treaty arrived at through a territorial settlement would allow the relations between the two countries to reach their full potential.

"To try and freeze the results of a military clash is not consentaneous [as received] with justice," he was quoted as saying. "Historical justice must be applied to the victors as well as the vanquished."

Andrey Kozyrev, the foreign minister of the Russian Federation, which has administrative jurisdiction over the islands and demands a voice in their disposition, is accompanying Bessmertnykh.

Officials quoted Kozyrev as saying he has agreed with all the points made by Bessmertnykh.

The Russian official was also quoted as saying the question of territorial delimitation, to borrow Bessmertnykh's term, should continue to be actively debated between Japan and the Soviet Union, including the Russian Republic.

He emphasized the importance of respecting public opinion, Japanese officials said. A recent referendum showed the overwhelming majority of residents on the islands oppose their transfer to Japan, officials said.

This is the first time the Russian Federation has been represented at such a high level in the Soviet Union's talks with Japan.

Officials said Nakayama and Bessmertnykh discussed the details of a joint statement to be issued by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Gorbachev after their mid-April meeting, but would not disclose the nature of the discussions.

Officials said the two foreign ministers confirmed their countries' intentions to enter into over 11 agreements when Gorbachev comes.

Nakayama expressed satisfaction with progress so far in finalizing the agreements, 11 of which the two sides agreed to conclude during bilateral foreign ministerial talks last September in Tokyo and in January in Moscow.

The two sides also touched on the situation on the Korean peninsula and the conflict in Cambodia, picking up from their first round of talks Friday, which focused on international affairs.

In that session, they agreed on the need to urgently devise a framework for the control of arms sales to the Middle East and other world hot spots.

Bessmertnykh will leave Japan on Sunday for China.

Kaifu, Bessmertnykh Meet

OW3003120991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1151 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu urged the Soviet leadership to make a major "political decision" to settle the two countries' decades-long territorial dispute in a meeting Saturday with Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Bessmertnykh replied that the domestic realities of the Soviet Union must be taken into consideration in resolving the dispute over the ownership of the four Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido, the official said.

He apparently hinted at strong Soviet public opposition to the return of the islands to Japan. The islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group of islets—were seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

The talks ran one hour, twice as long as scheduled, but the Foreign Ministry official said they did not show any clear headway toward resolving the island dispute.

The Soviet foreign minister told Kaifu that the two countries need to resolve the issue of what he called "territorial delimitation." The Soviet Union considers this one of the most important tasks required to conclude a peace treaty with Japan, Bessmertnykh was

quoted as saying. Japan is demanding the return of the islands as a condition for concluding a peace treaty.

Kaifu said he hopes to see a breakthrough in relations during President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic visit, scheduled for April 16-19. "I would like to broaden friendly relations and establish a stable relationship. To achieve that, I strongly wish for a political decision," he was quoted as saying in the meeting with Bessmertnykh, devoted solely to bilateral relations.

In reply, Bessmertnykh agreed that the territorial issue should be resolved. "But this issue has various complex aspects," he said, mentioning Soviet public opinion as one dimension. In a referendum earlier this month, a majority of the inhabitants of the disputed islands said they did not want them returned to Japan. Japan should take note of the "various realities" facing the Soviet Union, Bessmertnykh added.

Gorbachev has also come under rising pressure to resign, as illustrated by a 200,000 strong demonstration in Moscow on Thursday calling for his departure.

In an interview Wednesday with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Gorbachev warned against assuming that he will come to Japan weakened because of the difficult situation at home.

Kaifu told Bessmertnykh that he supports Gorbachev's perestroyka reforms.

In the meeting, Bessmertnykh, here since Friday on a three-day visit, handed Kaifu a letter from Gorbachev expressing his willingness to hold a frank dialogue on "all outstanding issues" during his visit to Tokyo.

Joint Press Statement

OW3003115791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1145 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The following is a full text of a joint press statement issued by Japan and the Soviet Union in Tokyo on Saturday [30 March]. (This is an unofficial translation by the Japanese Foreign Ministry.)

Minister for Foreign Affairs A.A. Bessmertnykh of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics paid an official visit to Japan from March 29 through March 31, 1991, at the invitation of the Government of Japan. Minister for Foreign Affairs A.A. Bessmertnykh of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu of Japan.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu expressed his welcome for the forthcoming visit to Japan by President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics M.S. Gorbachev and also expressed the expectation that this visit will be of historic significance.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Nakayama of Japan and Minister for Foreign Affairs A.A. Bessmertnykh of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics continued their consultations regarding the official visit to Japan by President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics M.S. Gorbachev.

The two foreign ministers affirmed their agreement of views that this visit to Japan by President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics M.S. Gorbachev should yield fundamental improvement in Japan-U.S.S.R. relations, raise the relationship to a qualitatively new level, and contribute significantly to peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and all the world.

Regarding the preparatory work in practical affairs for the forthcoming visit to Japan by President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics M.S. Gorbachev, the two foreign ministers expressed their satisfaction that the work of preparing the documents which have been agreed to be drafted is drawing to a close and that work is also going forth steadily on drawing up additional documents in the aviation field and in the field of modern Japanology.

The two ministers continued the negotiations on the conclusion of the Japan-U.S.S.R. peace treaty on the basis of the agreement affirmed in the Japan-U.S.S.R. joint communique of October 10, 1973.

In the negotiations, the two sides expressed their understandings on aspects relating to the elimination of the difficulty existing in their bilateral relations and agreed to further promote negotiations in order to conclude a peace treaty and usher in a new era in Japan-U.S.S.R. relations.

In the regular foreign ministers' meetings, the two foreign ministers held an exchange of views on important bilateral issues and issues of mutual concern in the broader realm of international affairs, with particular attention to the situation in the (Persian) Gulf region and issues in the Asia-Pacific region, including the situation on the Korean peninsula and the issue of Kampuchea.

Minister for Foreign Affairs A.A. Bessmertnykh of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics extended an invitation to Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Nakayama of Japan to pay an official visit to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1991. This invitation was gratefully accepted. The detailed schedule for this visit will be arranged through diplomatic channels.

Ambassador Edamura and Deputy Foreign Minister Owada also took part in the meetings from the Japanese side, as did Foreign Minister Kozyrev of the Russian Republic, Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Rogachev, and Ambassador Chizhov from the Soviet side.

The meetings in Tokyo were held in a business-like and constructive atmosphere and were substantive and useful to both sides.

Bessmertnykh at News Conference

OW3003105491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1043 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh said Saturday Japan and

the Soviet Union face the reality of a territorial question and must draw a definite borderline between disputed islands.

"I reiterate that where to put the borderline is an important issue," Bessmertnykh said at a press conference.

Calling the question an essential topic in mapping out a long- anticipated peace treaty between Moscow and Tokyo, Bessmertnykh said the two nations must draw a clearcut borderline, deciding between which islands the line will run.

Japan claims a group of four islands northeast of the country, occupied since the close of the World War II, is Japanese territory.

Noting that "this is called the 'northern territory' issue in Japan," he said. "We have seldom dealt with this issue and for some time we were talking as if it did not exist," he said. He said a bilateral approach on the issue is important.

"Like an ostrich we must not hide our head in the sand, neglecting the reality that does exist," the Soviet foreign minister said.

Bessmertnykh said it depends on the ability of both sides in finding the answer to settling on a mutually acceptable borderline at the summit talks between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu when the Kremlin chief visits Japan on April 16-19.

Nakayama at News Conference

OW3003121491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Saturday the Soviet Union appears ready to address a territorial dispute that has soured relations between the two countries for the past 46 years.

But he said Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh gave him no indication of how the matter could be resolved during their four-hour second round of talks on final preparations for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic visit, scheduled for April 16-19.

"Until now, the Soviet Union had avoided official discussions on the territorial issue," Nakayama told a news conference.

Japan is demanding the return of four islands off Hokkaido—Etorofu, Shikotan, Kunashiri, and the Habomais—before concluding a peace treaty with Moscow. Japan claims ownership of the islands, which the Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Asked whether he expected any concrete developments during Gorbachev's visit to Japan, Nakayama replied, "I felt that the Soviet Union wants to realize a qualitative breakthrough in relations, including the territorial issue."

Nakayama said he is neither optimistic nor pessimistic, but that Japan plans to continue demanding the islands' return.

In a joint press statement after the talks, the two ministers affirmed their agreement that Gorbachev's visit should yield fundamental improvement in Japanese-Soviet relations.

Tours Kyoto, Leaves Osaka

OW3103072591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0709 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Kyoto, March 31 KYODO—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh on Sunday arrived in the ancient capital of Kyoto by a Shinkansen bullet train at the end of official meetings in Tokyo.

In Kyoto the Soviet foreign minister visited the Nijo Castle, completed by Ieyasu Tokugawa, founder of the Tokugawa Shogunate, in the 17th century as a residence during visits to Kyoto.

Bessmertnykh also toured the Kinkakuji (Temple of Golden Pavilion), originally built in the 14th century as part of Shogunate Yoshimitsu Ashikaga's compound, and other famous tourist spots.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is also scheduled to visit the Nijo Castle and the gilded three-story Kinkakuji on the last day of his April 16-19 visit to Japan.

Bessmertnykh is scheduled to leave for Beijing from Osaka airport Sunday evening for a three-day visit en route to the Soviet Union.

In Tokyo he had talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama in preparation for Gorbachev's visit.

He said Saturday that the two countries' dispute over four northern islands is an important issue without giving a hint of how it may be overcome.

Bessmertnykh, speaking at a news conference, conceded that the Soviet Union has in the past been reluctant to address the island dispute, but said it is prepared for candid discussions during Gorbachev's visit.

KYODO Wraps Up Talks

OW3003154391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1514 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 (KYODO)—Soviet Foreign Minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, wrapping up a final round of talks to prepare for Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's historic visit here next month, said Saturday the two countries' territorial dispute is an important issue, but gave no hint of how it may be overcome.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, emerging from four hours of talks with him, said the Soviet Union seems more ready than ever before to discuss Tokyo's demand for the return of four islands off Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

"But there was no clear indication of how the resolution could be achieved," he told reporters.

Bessmertnykh, speaking at a separate news conference, conceded that the Soviet Union has in the past been reluctant to address the island dispute, but said it is prepared for candid discussions on the occasion of Gorbachev's April 16-19 visit.

"We must not hide our head in the sand like an ostrich, neglecting the reality that does exist," he told the news conference at the Japan National Press Club.

In a meeting with Bessmertnykh earlier in the day, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu stressed his hope that Gorbachev will make a "political decision" in order to settle the issue, which has stood in the way of concluding a peace treaty for 46 years, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Bessmertnykh replied that "domestic realities," including Soviet public opinion, must be taken into consideration in resolving the "territorial delimitation" issue, suggesting that pressures to disband the union, rising anti-Gorbachev sentiment, and opposition from islanders to the return of the islands could hinder the negotiations.

He noted that the Soviet side did not rebut Japan's demand that all four islands be returned, as it sometimes has in the past, but conceded there are "elements of truth" to the view often put forward by Russians that domestic uncertainties in the Soviet Union may hinder a resolution.

Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrei Kosyrev concurred with Bessmertnykh on the single occasion when he was given an opportunity to make a statement on the islands, the official said.

It was also the first time that the Russian Federation, which has administrative jurisdiction over the islands, was represented at such high level bilateral talks.

Japan is examining various scenarios so that it will be prepared to respond should Gorbachev table an "unexpected proposal" during his visit, the official said.

There was no discussion of these scenarios during the current round of talks, nor of possible economic rewards from Japan if the islands are returned, the official said.

Japan has indicated that recognition of Japanese sovereignty over all four islands would make possible large-scale Japanese economic assistance for the ailing Soviet economy.

This position was criticized by Bessmertnykh, who told reporters the "pressure tactic" could damage both political and economic ties.

If Gorbachev does bring a proposal with him during his April trip to Japan, it is likely to be unveiled in the third and last round of talks with Kaifu, the official added.

The two foreign ministers discussed details of a joint statement to be issued at the end of the April summit talks, and confirmed plans to complete 11 agreements during the visit.

Nakayama also accepted an invitation to visit Moscow later this year, said a joint press statement issued at the close of the foreign ministerial talks. The date is to be settled through diplomatic channels, it said.

On other issues, Bessmertnykh and Nakayama found common ground during talks Friday on the need for arms control in the Middle East.

Nakayama said that as a major arms exporter to Iraq, the Soviet Union must take responsibility for assisting Iraq's aggressive behavior.

In response, Bessmertnykh pointed out that the other permanent members of the five-nation U.N. Security Council—the United States, Britain, France, and China—had also exported arms to Iraq.

Bessmertnykh said he also agreed with Nakayama that a clause in the U.N. charter referring to powers defeated in World War II as "enemy" nations is anachronistic, and should be deleted.

The foreign ministers also discussed the Cambodian peace process, and Japan brought up its effort to persuade North Korea to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Bessmertnykh agreed with Nakayama's proposal to hold a second round of consultations on the political and security situation in the Asian-Pacific region, following the first one in New York last autumn.

Japan in the past has been reluctant to discuss Asian security. Nakayama also expressed concern over the large-scale relocation of tanks, warplanes, and other war gear to sites east of the Ural Mountains to avoid their destruction under a European conventional arms treaty.

Bessmertnykh is to travel to the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan before leaving for China on Sunday for a three-day visit.

Official: Gorbachev Suggests Aid for Ties

OW0104135691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1344 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev implicitly urged Japan to give priority to extending economic assistance to the Soviet Union in the process of improving Japan-Soviet relations, a senior official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Monday.

The Soviet president made the tacit demand during the first round of talks with LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa in Moscow on March 25, according to the official.

In reply, Ozawa repeated Japan's demand that a solution of the territorial dispute over four Soviet-held islands off

northeast Hokkaido is a prerequisite for improved relations and massive economic aid to the Soviet Union.

Ozawa held two rounds of talks with Gorbachev last week in Moscow to sound out the Kremlin's possible response to the long-standing Japanese claim to the islands before the Soviet leader's April 16- 19 visit to Japan.

The official said during the first round of talks with Ozawa, Gorbachev, citing a German decision to provide 17 billion dollars in economic assistance for the Soviet Union, made his indirect call for large-scale Japanese financial support.

Gorbachev was quoted as telling Ozawa that German unification was realized under trustworthy relations between Germany and the Soviet Union.

Ozawa told Gorbachev Japan-Soviet relations are different from German-Soviet ties.

Joint Statement To Call for Dialogue, Visits

OW3103101291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0917 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 31 KYODO—A Japan-Soviet joint statement that will be issued by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President Mikhail Gorbachev after their Tokyo meeting in mid-April will call for intensifying political dialogue with regular visits by leaders, government sources said Sunday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertnykh discussed the details of a joint statement during a two-day meeting in Tokyo Friday and Saturday.

Officials of the two countries have started drafting a statement to be issued when Gorbachev visits Japan April 16-19, the sources said.

The sources also said that after the Gorbachev visit, the two countries will further discuss their territorial dispute, which is the main agenda item for the summit meeting, for the joint statement.

Japan demands the return of four islands off Hokkaido seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II.

The joint statement will emphasize the historic significance of Gorbachev's visit, the first ever by a Soviet president, and it will say that Kaifu will visit the Soviet Union this year, they said.

Kaifu and Gorbachev also will announce in the statement that the two countries have concluded about 15 agreements to expand cooperation in various areas, they said.

Cambodia's Son Sann Remarks on Settlement

OW3003073491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0712 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Cambodia's non-communist resistance leader Son Sann said here Saturday the end of the Persian Gulf war, a sympathetic military government in Thailand, and reduced French support for the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government makes now the right time for a peace settlement.

"The moment is very favorable. Happily for us, the war in the Gulf is finished. If the war is going on, nobody will look at us," Son Sann said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE at a Tokyo hotel.

He has been in Tokyo the past week at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry for talks with Japanese Government and business leaders.

Son Sann, prime minister of the three-party, anti-Phnom Penh national government of Cambodia, said Thailand's new military regime that took power in a February coup stands "for us."

He said the Thai military has supported his position since 1979 when Vietnam installed the Phnom Penh government. Thailand under military rule can have "a more unified policy" on Cambodia.

Son Sann said the Thai move makes the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "united" on the Cambodian issue. "Now Mr. Hun Sen (Phnom Penh's prime minister) knows this," he said.

The 79-year-old resistance leader said France, which had been very sympathetic to the Hanoi-backed government, is changing its view. Son Sann said Paris "now sees, by going to Phnom Penh, that Hanoi is not cooperative at all, not wanting to help the two cochairmen" in the U.N. Cambodian peace dialogue—France and Indonesia.

He also urged EC nations to understand the resistance, which he said really represents Cambodian people, not the voice of "invasion troops."

He also cited the softening Soviet diplomatic approach as yet another good sign for a solution in Cambodia, giving examples of democratization in Eastern Europe and Moscow's acceptance, reversing years of refusal, to negotiate with Japan over Tokyo's claim on Soviet-held islands.

When asked about Japan's efforts to help bring about Cambodian peace, Son Sann said the draft peace proposal written by the five U.N. Security Council nations is a fundamental compromise among the parties which "should not be touched."

Japan is making a fresh approach to bring about Phnom Penh's acceptance of the U.N. plan with a call to disarm all parties and create a mechanism to avoid the repetition of mass killing policy, though Tokyo officials would not fully reveal the initiative. Son Sann said in a press conference earlier this week that the Japanese approach is "insufficient," without elaboration.

In making any cooperation, Japan should "cooperate with the five nations and ASEAN nations, especially France and Indonesia," he said.

He warned against any move, including from Japan, to extend economic aid to Vietnam, citing U.S. Secretary of

State James Baker's past statement that not a dollar can be given to Hanoi unless Vietnam helps realize U.N.-led peace in Cambodia.

But he especially called on Tokyo to help make Angkor Wat, the ancient Cambodian temple, a demilitarized zone under U.N. auspices so any Cambodian civilians can gather at the site, which represents the soul of Cambodia, and talk freely."

On the reported flow to the Khmer Rouge of U.S. military supplies from other noncommunist resistance groups, Son Sann denied there is military cooperation with the communist faction.

He said all Cambodian parties should disarm but the Phnom Penh government should do so first, otherwise the Khmer Rouge will not.

He reiterated that the Vietnamese must first leave Cambodia and then the U.N. peace proposal be implemented.

On the proposed peace meeting in Jakarta set for April, Son Sann said he has to persuade the Phnom Penh government to "become Cambodians" and to encourage it "to go to Jakarta in a Cambodian spirit."

He dismissed a call by that government for a general election to be held this year if peace is not achieved, charging that any initiative by an "illegal regime" would be an illegal action the international community would reject.

North Korea

South's Purchase of U.S. Aircraft Denounced

SK3003043691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities decided to introduce 120 F-16 fighter-bombers from a U.S. munition industrial complex, according to a radio report from Seoul.

Their scheme to drastically reinforce airforce with nuclear- capable fighter-bombers shows that they are racing headlong toward the aggravation of tension and nuclear war, not peace and reunification.

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group, defying the strong protest and denunciation by the entire Korean people and world people, annually stage the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, a preliminary war and test nuclear war, while beefing up armed forces, and aggravate tensions on the Korean peninsula and bring the situation to the brink of war.

UNCMAC Appointment of South General Viewed

SK3003013891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Can a Scarecrow Be a Senior Member ?"]

[Text] According to a report, the United Nations Command [UNC] announced on 25 March that it would appoint a South Korean puppet army general as senior member of its side to the Military Armistice Commission [MAC]. The UNC tried to hand over his credentials to our side. The side of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] could not but return the credentials to the UNC on the spot because it could not recognize the puppet army general, who is entirely unqualified, as the senior member of the United Nations Command of the Military Armistice Commission [UNCMAC] side.

As is already known, the side of the U.S. forces, late last year, intended to name the South Korean puppet army general to the post of the senior member of the UNC-MAC. In connection with this, the senior member of the KPA and CPV side already said that absolutely it would not allow such a plot, saying that the South Korean puppet army general has no qualifications to be the senior member of the U.N. forces side.

The UNC's effort to appoint the South Korean puppet army general as its senior member and to hand over his credentials to our side is, nevertheless, an act that challenges our side's just demand. It is a deliberate provocative maneuver to paralyze the major functions of the MAC and to purposely aggravate the tension.

The Korean Armistice Agreement was signed between both sides, making the side of the KAP and CPV on the one hand, and the side of the UN forces on the other hand. Therefore, it is a too self-evident truth that the senior members of both sides to the MAC, which has the fulfillment of the Armistice agreement as its mission, should be rightly appointed by both sides and should have legal qualifications and rights to respectively represent their sides.

It is senseless that the U.S. side tries to appoint the puppet army general to the post of the senior member of the UNCMAC side. The South Korean puppet army does not belong to the UN forces, nor is it a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement. The South Korean puppet army desperately opposed the signing of the Armistice Agreement and it did not participate in the meeting in which it was signed. Therefore, it is clear to everyone that a South Korean puppet army general cannot be the senior member to the UNCMAC side, which is an organization to fulfill and supervise the Armistice Agreement signed between the sides of Korea and China and the UN forces.

It is a complete breach of the provisions of the Armistice Agreement that the U.S. side has appointed a South Korean puppet army general as the senior member of the UNCMAC side. Paragraph 20 of the Armistice Agreement states that the MAC shall be composed of ten senior officers, five of whom shall be appointed by the commander-in-chief of the UNC. This means that the senior member should be appointed from the UNC,

which is a signatory of the Armistice Agreement, not from any side which is not a signatory of the Armistice Agreement.

Moreover, the Korea and China side has proposed to the UNC a flexible proposal that if the United States wants to appoint a South Korean puppet army general as our counterpart, it should, at least, prepare a legal and institutional mechanism needed for it and that negotiations should be held for that purpose.

Incidentally, the U.S. imperialists refused our flexible proposal and unilaterally appointed a puppet army general as the senior member. This is an open challenge to us.

We have already announced that if the UN forces appoint a puppet army general as the senior member of the UNCMAC side, we will neither recognize it nor regard him as our counterpart. Therefore, the U.S. imperialists should totally assume responsibility for all the serious consequences that may arise in the future. The U.S. imperialists have tried to hand over their post of the senior member of the UN forces, the post which they have undertaken from the date of the Korean Armistice Agreement's signing to the present, to a puppet army general who has no qualifications and rights this year. This is designed to show that the South Korean Army, which was deprived of the prerogative of command by the U.S. imperialists, is an independent army. By sending a puppet army general, who is only a scarecrow, to the MAC, moreover, they, behind the puppet army, are going to more viciously and openly commit the war maneuvers against the northern half of the Republic and to aggravate the tension in our country.

The war maneuvers conducted by the U.S. imperialists along the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] and its area are being fully revealed at the meeting of the MAC. Through this, the world's people are clearly aware that the U.S. imperialists are the breachers of the Korean Armistice Agreement and warmongers. By sending a puppet army general to the MAC, thereby, they are placing the responsibility on the puppets and attracting the attention of the world's people elsewhere. The U.S. imperialists, however, cannot hide their true color as the aggressors and warmongers who occupy South Korea with force of arms, and are madly preparing for invasion and war maneuvers. They will not get anything from the indiscriminate war maneuvers.

The U.S. imperialists should immediately and unconditionally withdraw the plan to appoint a puppet army general as the senior member of the UNCMAC side, and, they as a signatory of the Korean Armistice Agreement, should sternly keep it.

U.S. 'Global', 'Vicious Offensive' Viewed

SK0104093691 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Talk by station commentator Kim Ho-san, entitled "The U.S. Imperialists' Vicious Offensive Against Revolutionary Countries" from the "Review of the International Situation for the Month of March" program]

[Text] Dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: Today the imperialists have intensified their smear and slander of socialism more than ever before. In particular, the imperialists spearheaded the attack on the nations which are advancing, by maintaining the revolutionary principle and upholding the banner of socialism.

Complex incidents and events also took place in the political situation of the world in March amid the torrential flow of history.

However, what attracted the people's attention most among such incidents and events was the fact that the U.S. imperialists, bearing ill will against socialism, more viciously waged a reactionary offensive against the nations which are advancing by upholding the banner of socialism, the revolutionary banner.

It is the consistent strategy of the Bush administration that the United States crush those nations, which are keeping the revolutionary principle, by using all available means and methods. The international situation this month more clearly exposed such a policy by the U.S. Administration.

While pretending that it will take steps for relaxation of tension in some areas, the U.S. Government traversed along the path of aggravating tension by increasing the aggressive forces in other areas including the Korean peninsula, and by spreading the smell of gunpowder for a new war. They outrageously waged maneuvers for intervention in domestic affairs of the nations which are advancing by upholding the banner of socialism. Cuba is a good example.

This month, the U.S. imperialists waged anti-Cuban maneuvers more viciously than ever before. As was already known, the United Nations Human Rights Committee conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in mid March. This conference lasted many days. At this conference, the U.S. representative shamelessly said again that human rights are being infringed upon in Cuba and raved that certain sanctions should be imposed.

Timed to coincide with this, U.S. President Bush said that the question of human rights in Cuba should be handled internationally. This is a vicious challenge to socialsit Cuba and an intolerable act of intervention in the domestic affairs of a sovereign state.

As fair public opinion of the world evaluates, the so-called human rights issue does not exist in Cuba. The Cuban people are advancing along the path of socialism, which they chose based on their long practical experience and according to their own faith, without wavering. The Cuban people are fully enjoying the dignity and freedom of independent people and the right to existence under the socialist system.

The United States regards this as a thorn in its flesh. Thus, the United States is desperately running amok to spoil by any means Cuba's international authority.

which is daily increasing in Latin America, and its influence, and to erase the Cuban people's socialist cause.

This is the basis of the claim of the U.S. representative at the United Nations Human Rights Committee conference on the so-called issue of human rights in Cuba. The onerous commotion of the U.S. imperialists against socialist Cuba has also been revealed in their vicious maneuvers waged to demolish conviction of the revolutionary Cuban people in socialism.

According to a report of the Voice of America, the U.S. authorities announced that the television station based in Florida, a southern U.S. state, will again begin anti-Cuban television broadcasts.

The purpose of this anti-Cuban television broadcast is to slander and defame the leaders of the Cuban Government and party, to demolish the faith in socialism deeply cherished by the people, and thus to restore capitalism.

However, all facts show that the so-called human rights issue which the United States claims, and its slanderous propaganda, absolutely cannot frustrate the unwavering faith of the Cuban people in socialism nor their will.

In a speech on 23 March at a conference of the Union of Cuban Middle School Students, Comrade Fidel Castro stressed that Cuba will constantly remain as a socialist country in defiance of economic difficulties and U.S. pressure. He again expressed the resolution of the Cuban people to fulfill their missions and the responsibilities assigned by the times, their fatherland, and all of Latin America.

This month, the U.S. imperialists further viciously intensified anti-China maneuvers. The fact that China suppressed an antirevolutionary riot in Beijing in 1989 was not only China's domestic issue but also a just act taken according to the Constitution and laws. This was a rightful act to defend China's security and safeguard its socialist gains.

This notwithstanding, the U.S. imperialists unhesitatingly carried out the act of infringing upon China's sovereignty. The U.S. representative at the recent United Nations Human Rights Committee conference again smeared and slandered the Chinese Government on the pretext of the human rights issue, and insulted China by putting forward the issue which is totally related to China's domestic affairs.

This is the expression of the U.S.' dislike of China's advance along the path of socialism.

A particularly important issue in the international situation this month is that tension has been aggravated to an extreme point on the Korean peninsula and the danger of a new war has increased.

The U.S. imperialists, who always target our Republic for attack, more frantically ran amok with anti-Republic maneuvers this month, too.

This month, the U.S. Department of State said that the U.S. Armed Forces will counter any unexpected situation on the Korean peninsula and the U.S. Department of Defense talked about reinforcement of troops in South Korea.

Meanwhile, Solomon, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, officially expressed the U.S. position of opposing denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in order for the United States to maintain so-called nuclear restraint in South Korea.

The view of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense, as well as remarks of Assistant U.S. Secretary State for East Asian affairs are a undisguised threat and a danger to us, and are an open declaration that they will accelerate the preparations for a nuclear war in South Korea. In actuality, the U.S. troops did so this month.

In defiance of strong protests and the denunciation of our people and the peace-loving people of the world, the U.S. imperialists staged this month on a full scale the provocative Team Spirit '91 joint military exercise. According to the plan of the Team Spirit '91 joint military exercise, the U.S. imperialists mobilized various types of fighter-bombers, attack planes, patrol planes, and transportation airplanes in South Korea on a large scale from overseas aggressive bases in the Pacific region. Thus, they ran amok with various military exercises including an aerial war exercise designed for northward aggression.

On 12 March, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged a landing operation in Pohang by simulating the landing on a coastal area in the northern half of the Republic. On 14 March, they staged a large-scale river-crossing operation in the areas of Nam Han River. These two operations constituted the peak of the current Team Spirit joint military exercise.

As everyone knows, the U.S. imperialists are dashing toward a very grave stage in order to trigger a new war of aggression on the Korean peninsula. This imposes a grave danger to peace in Asia and in the world.

Thus, all progressive people of the world this month condemned the dangerous nature of the Team Spirit military exercise and strongly demanded that this exercise be immediately suspended.

The moves in the international situation this month showed that the U.S. imperialists, regarding the nations which are advancing by maintaining revolutionary principles and upholding the banner of socialism as the main obstacle to realizing their global domination, are attempting to open a breakthrough in their aggressive global strategy by controlling such nations.

Crushing such a strategic attempt by the U.S. imperialists is the most important and urgent task today for preventing a new war and safeguarding global peace.

U.S. Military Exercise on 28 March Reported

SK3003043291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0419 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)--The U.S. Pacific Airforce command on March 28 staged large-scale aerial and ground joint strike exercises aimed at a surprise attack on the North in the sky above Yoju, Kunwi and Oeyon Islet of South Korea as part of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

Mobilized in these exercises were formations of F-16 fighter-bombers based in the Pacific and some 320 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes (F-16, F-4, F-5, A-37, OA-10) of the U.S. imperialists present in South Korea and the puppet army.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists sent KC-130 and KC-135 refuelling tankers based in Hawaii and Guam Islands to the sky above Tokjok Islet for the exercise of mid-air refuelling to formations of CH-130 transport helicopters.

Meanwhile, the South Korean rulers massively mobilized infantry and motorized units in Pochon and Kapyong areas to conduct a ground attack operation under the support of military planes of different types.

The U.S. imperialists also sent high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes U-2, RC-12 and RV-1 to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line to commit an aerial espionage on targets in the area of our side.

A total of 670 fighter planes of different types were mobilized in the aerial military exercises in the sky above South Korea on March 28 alone.

U.S. Military 29 Mar Exercises

SK3103092591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0834 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce Command on March 29 staged aerial joint strike exercises aimed at a pre-emptive strike against the North in the skies above Tokjok Islet, Wonju, Kangrung and Taegu as part of the adventurous "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, according to military sources.

Mobilized in the provocative aerial operation staged three times that day were formations of F-15, F-16 and F-4 fighter-bombers brought from the U.S. mainland and overseas bases for the "Team Spirit 91" military exercises and fighter-bombers and assault planes such as F-15, F-16, F-4, F-5 and A-37, belonging to the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet Airforce, more than 180 in all.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists deployed at the Osan Airforce Base formations of VTOL [vertical takeoff and landing] assault planes and assault planes based in Iwakuni, Japan, and introduced into Osan and Kunsan Airfields formations of C-141 and C- 130 transport planes loaded with combat materials from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific.

On the 29th, they sent high-altitude strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes U-2, RC-12 and RV-1 seven times to the sky above the military demarcation line to commit an aerial espionage on targets in the inland and frontline areas of our side.

A total of 640 military planes were flown in the aerial military exercises above South Korea on March 29 alone.

Daily: U.S. To Get 'Deaths' If War Unleashed

SK3003050591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—The people and people's army soldiers in the northern half of Korea are in full preparedness with a high revolutionary vigilance to smash any provocation of the aggressors in face of the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group. No one will get anything from military threat, says NODONG SINMUN today, warning that if the U.S. imperialists and their stooges unleash a war of aggression, ignoring our peaceful efforts, they will get nothing but deaths and corpses.

The paper says in a signed article:

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group have opposed the peace overtures of our party and the DPRK Government for promoting peace and peaceful reunification of the country and answered them with the "Team Spirit 91" joint military maneuvers. This is an unpardonable criminal act which turns the situation of the Korean peninsula tending to detente and peace back to the vortex of aggravation of the tensions and confrontation.

The annual "Team Spirit" of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities is a preliminary war and test nuclear war for a forestalling attack on the northern half of Korea.

Mobilized in this war game are U.S. troops in South Korea and the puppet army and other large forces including U.S. troops based in the U.S. mainland and the Pacific, warships, planes, tanks, military vehicles, etc. This is huge aggression forces enough to wage a war. And even nuclear strike means and equipment for nuclear war are involved in this war game. The war game includes a coordinated landing operation, a river-crossing operation, an aerial mobile strike operation and a commando operation for a large-scale attack on the front and the rear of the DPRK.

No one can vouch that the war game staged by the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group in a horrible wartime atmosphere in South Korea would not go over to an all-out war against the DPRK.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities must act with discretion, looking straight at the trend of the times.

Anti-Team Spirit Meetings Held Across Country

SK3103092291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0827 GMT 31 Mar 91

["U.S. Imperialists and South Korean Puppets Warned To Act With Discretion"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—A wave of meetings is sweeping industrial establishments and co-op farms across the northern half of Korea in denunciation of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

Loud voices warning the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities to act with discretion, squarely looking into the reality, rang out at employees' meetings of the Anju district coal mining complex and the Yongsong general machine bureau, farmers' meeting of the Pyonghwa cooperative farm, Panmun County, Kaesong Municipality, and an employees' meeting of the Korean film studio which were held some time ago.

The speakers at the meetings said that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets mobilized a large number of warplanes of different types in the feverish nuclear aerial joint strike exercises and aerial espionage aimed at invading the North and parachuting exercises aimed at infiltration into the depth of the northern half of Korea, creating a grim atmosphere of war. All these military exercises are a malicious challenge to our people and the world peaceloving people, they said.

They warned that, if the nuclear warmaniacs dare unleash a war of aggression in this land, defying our repeated warnings, they will be burnt to death in the flame kindled by themselves.

The speakers strongly urged the U.S. imperialists to stop the adventurous military exercises at once and withdraw from South Korea without delay, taking along the means of nuclear war.

Press Views South's Team Spirit Protests

SK3103095191 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0840 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 31 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a by-lined article captioned "'Team Spirit' Meets With Resistance."

Rallies and demonstrations of students against the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ruling group are being held every day at universities and colleges across South Korea, the article says, and goes on:

The "American Cultural Centre" in Kwangju was attacked with firebombs by students who were opposed to the "Team Spirit 91" maneuvers and the "Welcome Tower" erected by the puppets in Suwon for the officers and men participating in the "Team Spirit" was burnt.

An acute situation in which a war may break out any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula, the North-South high-level talks which were arranged with so much efforts are in a state of rupture and a grave obstacle to peace of the country and its peaceful reunification has been created due to the "Team Spirit" maneuvers staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities.

Upset by the collapse of the anti-communist system and growing anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle of people in South Korea amid the brisk dialogue and exchange between the North and the South and ever growing sentiments of our nation for national reunification, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are trying to find in the establishment of the "emergency wartime system" and the "Team Spirit" war game a most effective way of breaking up the North-South dialogue and blocking the people's movement for independence, democracy and reunification.

And they intend to consolidate their long-term power system by holding the "local assembly elections" without difficulty in such terror-ridden atmosphere.

This is, however, a foolish act and a stupid daydream.

With no terror-ridden atmosphere and fascist suppression can they frighten the South Korean people.

Commentary on ROK's Local Elections Continues

SKNDF Issues Statement

SK0104051291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0446 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Our South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon), together with all the people, declares the results of the "local assembly elections" in cities, counties and municipal wards totally invalid.

A spokesman for Hanminjon said this in a statement dated March 27, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

Pointing out that the "March 26 elections" were not only a political failure but also a moral "defeat" for No Tae-u's "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP], the spokesman said:

This is proved by the lowest voting rate ever recorded in the successive "elections".

The No group blocked the campaign of the democratic patriotic forces for the "local assembly elections" by every conceivable means, urged by the ulterior intention to abuse the local autonomous system won by the people through their arduous and persevering anti-fascist democratic struggle as a foothold for the prolongation of its dictatorial "regime".

Pro-ruling party, pro-"government" elements who were "elected" through poll-rigging are not qualified to take seats in the "assemblies of small districts" and the "local

assemblies" must be occupied by the representatives of the people of basic strata who are fighting for democracy.

The true way of winning a genuinely people-first local autonomy is to put an end to the dictatorship of No Tae-u's "Democratic Liberal Party".

The people of all strata should launch into a more powerful anti-No Tae-u, anti-DLP" struggle to destroy the pro-American conservative coalition and the dictatorship of the "6th Republic" through a grand democratic unity.

South Groups Issue Statements

SK2903110891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA)—The "Coalition for National Democratic Movement" (Chonminnyon) made public a statement on March 27 branding the surprise "local assembly elections" in small cities, counties and municipal wards forced by the No Tae-u ruling group as money-backed corrupt elections in which "pro-ruling persons were massively mobilized," according to a radio report from Seoul.

The statement demanded that the "present regime bear responsibility for the elections".

Chonminnyon contended that the low voting rate of 55 percent "meant a strong protest of the entire people to the present government which was trying to hush up the Suso housing scandal."

On the same day, the Civic Federation for Justice in Economy ("Kyongsilyon") in a statement made it clear that the voting rate was low as the voters rejected the "election" due to the occupation of the great majority of the candidacy by the "Democratic Liberal Party" members and demanded that the incumbent "law on election" be revised so that citizens may participate in "elections."

CPRF: Elections 'Political Farce'

SK0104051191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—The "elections" for cities, counties and municipal wards in South Korea were one more political farce to obstruct the democratic development of the society and consolidate the long-term power system of the "Democratic Liberal Party" [DLP] and a dastardly "power" robbery, declared the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in Information No. 587 released on March 31.

The information continues:

The No Tae-u group staged the "elections" by resorting to power, money and fraud to monopolize even the "local assemblies" and lay a foothold for the long-term office of the "Democratic Liberal Party."

To this end, No Tae-u placed the whole of South Korea in a horrible state of semi-martial law, mobilized all the repressive forces and administrative power in "election" rigging and committed unhesitatingly such mean acts as crackdown upon democratic forces, distribution of filthy bribes and overt and covert blocking of candidacy of the opposition parties, dissidents and figures of different circles.

The "elections" recorded the "lowest rate of voting" in history due to the non-confidence and indifference of the South Korean people in spite of the violence, appeasement and deception by the No Tae-u group. This was a typical expression of the discontent and resistance of the popular masses against the present "Democratic Liberal Party government".

If democratic development is to be made and fair democratic elections be held in South Korea, the corrupt "DLP government" must be replaced with an independent democratic government and the "DLP", a group of political gangsters, be disbanded.

The South Korean people of all strata, holding aloft the banner of the anti-U.S., anti-No Tae-u, anti-"DLP" struggle, should expose and condemn the "election" rigging by the puppets, probe the truth behind the Suso housing scandal and the pollution of water of the River Nakdong until their chief culprits are punished and continue their stubborn struggle to replace the corrupt "government of the 6th Republic" with another government.

South Defector Cites Reverence for Kim Il-song

SK0104110491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—Kang Tae-song, a clerk of the medical insurance company in Kangjin County, South Cholla Province, South Korea, who came over to the northern half of the country in January told a reporter of the Korean Central News Agency about his life experience on March 26.

The feelings of reverence for the great President Kim Il-song are growing deeper among the people of South Korea, and it is an irresistible trend of the times to deeply study and disseminate the man-centred chuche idea founded by him, he said, and went on:

A few years ago, when I was at the medical insurance company, I borrowed a book titled "Review of the Great Chuche Idea" from a junior of my high school days.

Lending me the book, he told me that the chuche idea of the great President Kim Il-song expounded in the book is a new man-centred idea evolved with man as the starting point and it is a revolutionary doctrine brightly indicating the way for the people to live independently.

I read the book with avidity, having been interested in the reality of the North and the chuche idea.

Fascinated by the man-centred chuche idea, I came to realize that the North where this great idea has been applied to reality is a welfare society of the people, and I

wanted to have a better knowledge of the revolutionary history of President Kim Il-song who founded this excellent idea.

I also heard a lot about the revolutionary activities of President Kim Il-song from a student of Sogang University.

Kang Tae-song recalled that a friend engaged in farming in his native village called on him and told about the reality of the North. Then he said, "There is none other than general Kim Il-song who can reunify our country. Only when we people in the South are embraced in his bosom can we enjoy a blessed and happy life.

Hearing these stories from friends, I learned well how strong the feelings of reverence for the great President Kim Il-song were among the people in the South, and I felt the urge to do something for reunification, he said, and stressed:

It is my determination to do my bit for accelerating reunification through a deep study to arm myself mentally with the philosophical doctrine of chuche.

Delegations' Departures for USSR Reported

Scientific, Technological Delegates

SK3003081291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] The Soviet Government scientific and technological cooperation delegation led by Mikhail Kruglov, deputy chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology, returned home by plane today.

Han Sang-pyo, vice-chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee, and an official of the Soviet Embassy to our country bid farewell to the delegation at the airport.

Soviet-Korea Friendship Delegates

SK3003084291 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] The Central Committee of the Soviet-Korea Friendship Association delegation led by (?Talaumesov Kazahumes), vice chairman of this association, returned home by plane today.

Yi Pong-hui, vice chairman of the Central Committee of the Korea-Soviet Friendship Association and an official of the Soviet Embassy to our country bid farewell to the delegation at the airport.

Economic Delegation Visits USSR

SK0104104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—A Korean Government economic delegation headed by Kim Chong-u, vice-minister of external economic affairs, left here today by air for a visit to Turkmenistan, Kirghizia and Tadzhikstan, the Soviet Union.

Yi Chong-ok Visits Thai Princess 29 Mar

SK2903105891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok today called on Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand at the guest house on a goodwill visit to Korea.

Present there were Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il, and Thai ambassador here Montri Chalichan.

He had a friendly conversation with the H.R.H. Princess.

Thai Princess Sends Kim Il-song Thanks Message

SK0104020791 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Message of thanks from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon from Kingdom of Thailand to DPRK President Kim Il-song ending her visit to the DPRK on 29 March—read by announcer]

[Text] To Your Excellency Kim Il-song, President of the DPRK, Pyongyang:

In departing your country, I express deep thanks to Your Excellency for the warm and kind hospitality extended to me and to my entourage during our stay in your country.

I wish to express my special thanks to you for the excellent luncheon and lively dialogue that Your Excellency arranged for us on 28 March. Through this luncheon and dialogue, I became aware of many things about the DPRK. I firmly believe that our current visit will contribute to consolidating friendship between our two peoples and to further expanding and developing the friendly ties between our two countries.

I pay my lofty respects to Your Excellency once again.

Maha Chakri Sirinthon
Princess of Kingdom of Thailand
29 March 1991, Beijing

Yun Ki-pok Sees Chongnyon Leader Off to Japan

SK3003121491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Sin Sang-tae, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), who had visited the socialist homeland, left here today.

He was seen off at the airport by Yun Ki-pok, officials concerned and his families and relatives.

KCNA Review of 30 Mar Pyongyang Press

SK3003045491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of thanks to the great leader President Kim Il-song sent by H.R.H Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand, leaving Pyongyang after concluding her visit to Korea and a report about her departure.

NODONG SINMUN reports that words expressing reverence for President Kim Il-song appeared in university town and streets of South Korea.

Given in the paper is a poem written by S. Rashida Abide Nizam [spelling as received], director of Ali Ali higher school of Pakistan, highly praising President Kim Il-song.

Seminars on works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were held in different countries, says the paper.

Under the title "Comrade Kim Chong-il Is a Great Master of Ideology and Leadership", the paper carries news that broad public circles of the world speak highly of him.

The paper comes out with an article dealing with the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il in arming the party members and other working people with the Korean-nation-first-spirit.

Given in the press is an account of a meeting for conveying trees and flower plants sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il held at the Ssuksom revolutionary site.

Papers dedicate articles to the 10th anniversary of the publication of "For the Development of Chuche-orientated Literature and Art," an immortal classical work of Comrade Kim Chong-il (March 31, 1981).

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls upon the party workers to intensify the work with man in conformity with their duty.

Econews of the press includes reports that a drive for sowing seed rice on cold-beds is in its height in rural communities, the Kim Chaek iron complex boosted iron and steel production, and the construction of minor power stations is being stepped up.

NODONG SINMUN informs the readers that the Korean ambassador to Singapore paid a farewell call on the Singapore president and a training course for journalists dealing with successes and experiences in the press was held in the capital of Nepal.

Agreements on cooperation in computerizing construction designing and updating the laboratories of the central hygienic prevention centre were signed here between the DPRK and the UNDP [UN Development Program], says the paper.

11 universities and colleges in Seoul held inaugural ceremonies of general student councils demanding the overthrow of the present "regime" and the independence of campus, and the struggle of the South Korean people enraged at the Suso scandal is gaining momentum, according to the press.

Given in the press are public opinion at home and abroad and articles denouncing the "Team Spirit-91" joint manoeuvres and news about the ceaseless aerial war exercises and the aerial espionage by the U.S. imperialists.

NODONG SINMUN says that the DPRK's proposal for reunification through confederation was supported in different countries.

MINJU CHOSON in an article says that the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo is a fair and aboveboard proposal for national reunification which may be a basis of the national accords.

An article of NODONG SINMUN exposes the No Tae-u ruling group's moves for arms buildup.

Papers inform the readers that the head of the Korea unified table tennis team to the 41st World Table Tennis Championships paid courtesy calls on the Nagano Prefectural governor and on the mayor of Nagano of Japan.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY carried an article praising the tree planting in Korea, and the local autonomous assemblies of Japan adopted written opinions for early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

A. Ilin, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, accused "democratic"-movement representatives of going toward capitalism, says the paper.

KCNA Review of 1 Apr NODONG SINMUN

SK0104054091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Review of NODONG SINMUN]

[Text] Pyongyang April 1 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that Tanzanian media reported the great leader President Kim Il-song's on-the-spot guidance of the Samsok district cooperative farm in Pyongyang.

The paper devotes one whole page to an article on the deep love and warm favours shown by President Kim Il-song for Hero of the Republic Kim Song-chin who silenced an enemy pillbox with his body in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The daily conveys words of foreigners deeply revering President Kim Il-song who devotedly serves for the people and warmly loves them.

Under the title "Mangyongdae is dear to the hearts of the world people" it says that these days many people visit historic Mangyongdae, President Kim Il-song's birthplace, with the April holiday at hand.

Working people in different parts of the country sent rare trees and flowers they had carefully tended collectively or separately to Mangyongdae, according to the paper.

It is reported in the daily that a seminar on dear Comrade Kim Chong-il's work "On the Chuche Idea"

was held in Tanzania and a lecture on his work "On Some Problems of Education in the Chuche Idea" was given in India.

It prints a solidarity letter to the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] from the C.C., the Communist Party of Vietnam denouncing the "Team Spirit-91" joint military maneuvers and supporting the Korean people's cause of national reunification.

Thanks of the C.C., the WPK were conveyed to the participants in the national youth high-speed tunnelling competition under way at the Komdok mining complex, says the paper.

It reports that many trees were planted on Mt. Chang in Pyongyang Sunday to mark the significant day, March 31, 1957, when Comrade Kim Chong-il planted trees on the mountain.

The paper informs the readers that many sectors of the national economy and industrial establishments fulfilled their assignments for the first quarter of the year and innovations have been effected in the light industry sector.

Seen in the paper is an article entitled "Scientific Management of the Economy Is Essential Advantage of Taean System."

The Guinean president met with the DPRK ambassador to his country, says the paper.

It gives an account of the signing in Pyongyang of an agreement on trade and payments between the DPRK and Mongolian Governments and accounts of meetings to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Pukchang thermal power complex and the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Hamhung disabled soldiers prosthetic factory.

It carries an article entitled "Defining the Method of National Reunification Is Urgent and Important Matter."

Seen in the paper are Information No. 587 of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and a Report about a Statement Issued by the Spokesman of the South Korean National Democratic Front on the No Tae-u ruling group's rigging of the "local elections" in small cities, counties and municipal wards.

Carried in the daily is news that South Korean lawyer Han Sung-hon stripped bare the Suso housing scandal and more than 10,000 workers of the Daewoo shipbuilding in Koje boycotted work in protest against the outrageous arrest of leading members of the trade union of the company by the authorities.

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation the daily says that the No Tae-u ruling group is making desperate efforts to find a way out of its daily-worsening ruling crisis.

The daily informs the readers that a political party and organization of Nicaragua issued statements denouncing the "Team Spirit-91" joint manoeuvres and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets continued aerial war exercises and espionage.

It is reported in the daily that Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, stated in an interview with the chief editor of the Japanese paper CHUNICHI SHIMBUN that China will continue developing friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK, the first all-army party conference closed in Moscow and the U.S. imperialists reopened the criminal anti-Cuba TV broadcasting.

The daily introduces the development of Iran and the Interparliamentary Union.

It carries a report about many countries which pay deep concern to the conservation of forest resources.

South Korea

First Ministers Conference on Reunification Held

SK3103024691 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] The government will make direct trade with North Korea the number one priority in its reunification policy and will soon propose the resumption of the stalled political and Red Cross talks to the Communist North, officials said Friday.

The first ministers' conference on reunification presided over by Deputy Prime Minister-Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung, decided that Seoul will propose the resumption of the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks and Red Cross talks to Pyongyang in April.

The conference was attended by ministers and vice ministers of 17 ministries including the Economic Planning Board, Foreign Ministry and Home Ministry.

The participants decided to hold the conference once every month and to form a working-level committee under the vice national unification minister.

South Korean companies have so far imported considerable amounts of commodities from North Korea via third countries, mainly Singapore and Hong Kong.

The North, which still refuses to recognize the existence of the South Korean government, has avoided direct trade with the South.

Seoul To Propose Direct Trade With DPRK

SK2903130391 Seoul YONHAP in English 1242 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 29 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will make direct trade with North Korea the number one priority in its reunification policy and will soon propose the resumption of the stalled political and Red Cross talks to the communist half, Seoul officials said Friday.

In the first ministers' conference on reunification presided over by Deputy Prime Minister-National Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung, it was decided that Seoul

will propose the resumption of the inter-Korean prime ministers' talks and Red Cross talks to Pyongyang in April.

The conference was attended by ministers and vice ministers of 18 ministries including the Economic Planning Board, Foreign Ministry and Home Ministry.

The participants decided to hold the conference once every month and to form a working-level committee under vice national unification minister.

North Given Name List of IPU Delegation

SK3003040491 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Pak Chan-kyu, speaker of the National Assembly, today sent a telephone message to Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the North Korean Supreme People's Assembly, informing him of the name list of our delegates who will participate in the 85th Interparliamentary Union [IPU] conference to be held in Pyongyang. Pak Chun-kyu proposed that a liaison officers' contact be held at the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 1000 on 3 April to discuss the procedure for the delegation's passage through Panmunjom.

The name list which our side presented to the North side today consists of 25 persons, namely 12 lawmakers led by the chief delegate, Pak Chong-su, assemblyman; Pak Sang-mun, secretary general of the National Assembly; seven suite members, and five reporters.

The 85th IPU conference will be held in Pynogyang from 29 April to 4 May, and our delegation will go to Pyongyang through Panmunjom with the consent of the North Korean side.

Delegates' Names Listed

SK3103022891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Pak Chun-kyu yesterday gave his northern counterpart Yang Hyong-sop the names of 12 lawmakers, eight officials and five newsmen who will attend the Inter- Parliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in Pyongyang on April 29-May 4.

In his telephone message, Pak hoped that a contact between liaison officers be held on Wednesday to discuss the technical matters of the South Koreans' trip to the communist North.

The official delegates are advisors Chae Mun-sik and Pak Yong- suk, chief delegate Pak Chong-su and To Yong-sim, Kim Yong-tae, Pak Kwan-yong, Kim Hyon-uk, Chong Chae-mun, Kim Won-ki, Cho Se-hyong and Kim Kwang-il.

Pyongyang accepted the Seoul request last week to allow its House members to pass through Panmunjom to attend the gathering.

Government Group Seeks Attendance at IPU

SK3003093091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0854 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—a Group of South Korean Government officials are likely to accompany a parliamentary delegation to the 85th General Meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union opening in Pyongyang April 29, it was learned Saturday.

Government sources said the group, comprising officials from the presidential office, Foreign Ministry and National Unification Board, will discuss with North Korean officials resumption of prime ministers' and Red Cross talks, and the question of U.N. membership.

Dispatch of the group will be officially proposed to North Korea in a liaison officers contact, to be held soon to work out procedural matters concerning the South Korean delegation's passage through the truce village of Panmunjom and the method of communication between the delegates and Seoul during their stay in Pyongyang.

National Assembly speaker Pak Chun-kyu sent a telephone message to IPU organizers in Pyongyang Saturday, in which he gave the list of 25 lawmakers, supporting personnel and journalists and offered to hold a working-level contact at Panmunjom on April 3.

The sources said the government had decided to send some government officials to Pyongyang in addition to the IPU delegation in efforts to promote dialogue and exchange with North Korea. They said it was highly likely that North Korea will give positive consideration to the South's plan to send the group of officials.

The IPU meeting will be held from April 29-May 4 and attended by delegates from over 100 countries.

DPRK Requests More Time Before IPU Contact

SK0104111291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1037 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—North Korea counterproposed Monday that an inter-Korean contact related with South Korean participation in the 85th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Pyongyang be held on April 10, instead of Seoul-proposed Wednesday.

The counterproposal was made in a telephone message sent by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of North Korea's Supreme People's Assembly, to speaker Pak Chun-kyu of the South Korean National Assembly.

Pak, delivering the list of 25 South Korean delegates to the IPU conference to the North through a telephone message Saturday, had offered to have a liaison officials meeting Wednesday at the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss procedural matters of South Korean delegates' travel to Pyongyang.

The IPU meeting is slated for April 29-May 5 in Pyongyang.

No Tae-u Views IPU Meeting, North Ties

SK3103025891 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday that the coming Inter- Parliamentary Union [IPU] conference in Pyongyang should be used to advance South-North Korean relations. "To have the IPU forum contribute to inter-Korean ties, our delegation should thoroughly prepare for the meeting in advance." No told Kim Yong-san, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP].

The President stated that "it was a good thing North Korea gave permission for our delegates to pass through Panmunjom to attend the forum in Pyongyang."

No was receiving reports from Kim about the ruling party's affairs and the results of Tuesday's local elections, which ended in an overwhelming victory for the DLP, at Chongwadae.

The 85th IPU conference opens on April 29 and will close May 4. The Seoul delegation is made up of 12 lawmakers and 25 reporters and other related personnel.

During the weekly Chongwadae meeting with the DLP's second-in-command, President No who also heads the party, stressed that the party should take the lead in ensuring the upcoming local polls, to form councils in provinces and special cities, are also held in a clean and fair atmosphere.

No evaluated Tuesday's local elections in small administrative units as a "revolutionary poll which has become a great turning point in renovating our political climate."

As for the tap water contamination in the Taegu area, the President deplored that the incident disclosed a loophole in the government's management of the environment and businesses' irresponsible way of thinking about environmental preservation.

"I hope that the DLP will hammer out ways to preserve our environment while supporting the administration's environmental polices and launching a pan-national campaign to protect nature," he stressed.

Briefed on Kim's plan to take part in a prayer meeting for reconciliation between Cholla and Kyongsang provinces in Taegu tomorrow, No voiced his hope that such a meeting should be held often to eliminate deep-rooted regionalism and the political circle should take it on themselves to make sustained efforts for this.

Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung from the Cholla province is also scheduled to participate in the function arranged by religious leaders.

Foreign Minister Briefs Unification Committee

SK3003085491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0655 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The National Assembly Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee met Saturday to discuss vital diplomatic issues and hear from Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok.

Yi briefed the committee on plans for participation of Korean companies in Gulf rebuilding projects, entry into the United Nations and talks between North Korea and Japan on normalization of relations.

"We are considering ways for Korean companies to participate in Mideast reconstruction projects through contributions to the Mideast economic reconstruction and development fund," Yi said.

"We plan to send a joint economic survey mission composed of government and private-sector officials to the region at an opportune time after Ramadan, a month-long Muslim fast, to tap the possibility of Korean firms participating in reconstruction projects and to expedite exports to the region by deferring payment and using the Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF)."

He predicted Iraqi President Saddam Husayn would soon be out of power because anti-government riots continue in Iraq and Western countries want him to step down.

"Our policy to realize the simultaneous entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations in the near future is still effective, but we will take concrete steps to win U.N. membership alone this year if the North Korean authorities continue to reject simultaneous admission," Yi told the committee.

He confirmed that the government would not oppose improvement in relations between North Korea and Japan if it would contribute to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and to openness in North Korean society.

As the inter-Korean premiers' talks had been halted by North Korea, he said, Seoul had asked Tokyo to go forward prudently in its negotiations with Pyongyang.

After Yi's testimony, the committee asked him to slow his drive for early tangible results regarding entry into the United Nations and to handle it from a broader perspective, taking into account the needs for reunification and stability on the Korean peninsula.

South, North Give Joint Concert in Tokyo

SK0104024191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0210 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Tokyo, April 1 (YONHAP)—Musicians from South and North Korea recreated the sense of oneness they discovered last year in a concert for resident Koreans in Japan on Sunday. The songs and orchestral pieces were all written jointly by South and North Korean musicians, who played and sang to 1,300 enthusiastic Koreans jampacked into Tokyo's Suntory Hall.

Drawing the wildest response from the audience was the duet "The Path to Reunification," composed by Hwang Pyong-ki of the South and Song Tong-chun of the North

and sung by soprano Yun In-suk from the South and baritone Yu Chon-hyon from the North.

The concert also featured "Fanfare and Memorial for Harp and Orchestra," a musical portrayal of nuclear holocaust written by German-based composer Yun I-sang in 1970.

Yun, a key figure in bringing musicians from the two sides of the Korean peninsula closer, was prevented from attending Sunday's event by injuries sustained in a recent traffic accident.

It was the third time musicians from the capitalist South and communist North gave a joint concert. The first was in Pyongyang in October last year and the second in Seoul in December.

Government Approves North Linguists' Invitation

SK3003084191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] On 27 March, the government approved the application to invite 19 North Korean scholars, including Hong Ki-mun, vice-president of the North Korean Academy of Social Sciences. The invitation was made by the International Korean Language Institute (chairman: Son Han), which will host the Fourth Korean Language Educational Seminar in August at Yonsei University.

Three-Generation Succession in DPRK Viewed

SK0104041691 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 31 Mar 91 p 2

[Article by reporter O Tae-chin: "Plan To Position Kim Chong-il's Only Son To Succeed His Father"]

[Text] North Korea secretly is grooming Kim Chong-il's 14-year-old only son, Chong-nam, to succeed his father who is to succeed his father. Toward this end, North Korea reportedly already has begun gathering basic data necessary to promote the idolization of Kim Chong-nam and is now educating him on a special program.

This was revealed on 31 March by a source well versed in North Korean affairs who quoted recent defectors who were closely associated with Kim Chong-il before they sought freedom. This source also said that North Korea seems to be waiting for an appropriate time to start the idolization of Kim Chong-nam through ideological inculcation of citizens.

According to the source, North Korea has set about gathering or creating Kim Chong-nam childhood anecdotes that can be used as examples of demonstrating his "successor-quality." This follows the formation of a Kim Chong-nam team in the Party Historical Research Center under the control of director Kang Sok-sung. The Party Historical Research Center is the source of the historical distortion devoted to beautifying or falsifying historical facts to build the personal cult around Kim Il-song, his son, and family members. The Party Historical Research Center has contributed greatly to building Kim Chong-il's succession system by manufacturing stories about Kim Chong-il's birthday, personal background, and legendary anecdotes to help deify him.

The source also noted that Kim Chong-nam has received special education for the gifted only on his father's order, as Kim Chong-il wants his son to be trained as a future leader and has never sent him to regular school. Kim Chong-nam had been sent to Switzerland with a few governesses and was being educated in a special institution until North Korean students studying in East Europe began spreading the word about his staying in Switzerland. He immediately was brought back to Pyongyang at the instruction of Kim Chong-il who feared for the safety of his son when the latter's whereabouts became known.

Even after his return, Kim Chong-nam is reported to have received his education at home from governesses. Kim Chong-il made his son wear military uniforms routinely, raising his rank every year, and urged close associates to call his son "Comrade General." Kim Chong- nam's insignia now is "marshal" and in the process of being given such a high insignia, he has become a spoiled child who respects nobody else.

Kim Chong-il is said to have had a daughter called Sol-song, three years junior to Chong-nam, with his second wife Kim Hye-suk. Kim Chong-il married Hong Il-chon in 1966 after a lengthy courtship, but divorced from her three years later. At the urging of his associates, in 1973 he married Kim Hye-suk who was then the party organizational guidance department's registering clerk in charge of party cadres.

Nevertheless, Kim Chong-il has kept two concubines, Song Hye-rim and Ko Yong-hui, whom he regularly visits at their respective houses. Kim Chong-nam is said to be living in "Official Residence No 15" in Chungsong-tong, central district of Pyongyang, with Song Hye-rim whom Kim Chong-il favors most. "No 15," Kim Chong-il's official residence, has an underground tunnel to his office at the Workers Party of Korea and is completely off limits to the general public.

Kim Hye-suk, Kim Chong-nam's biological mother, is reported to be living in Sojang-tong, about 2 km north of the party building.

In a sense, the plan for the unprecedented succession of power, even to a grandson, may appear to be natural to North Korea, which has successfully completed preparations for the father-to-son succession of power. If North Korea remains unchanged for a long time even after the deification of Kim Il-song and his son, which has been accelerated on a previously unknown scope, with particular stress placed on the need to "keep the blood line pure" in all aspects, including the succession of power, one may find it hard to discard this plan as a wild idea.

With the threats to the system in North Korea growing at home and abroad, and with North Korea watchers wondering whether Kim Chong-il will be able to succeed his father at all or whether his system after inheriting his

father's power will be viable, this plan for succession of power for three generations may turn out to be a pipe dream.

Food Riots 'Likely' in North Over Shortages

SK2803043691 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] An ROK Government official concerned said on 27 March that it is very likely that riots may break out in North Korea in April because of food shortages.

This official also said that it is very likely that, because of a breakdown in North Korea's food supply system, food rationing may be stopped or reduced in some areas and that this may lead to food riots similar to those which have broken out in some regions in the Soviet Union.

Referring to the fact that the Korean Central News Agency recently described the mobilization of troops in civilian construction sites as part of the peaceful arms reduction, he said: "This is merely North Korea's practice of mobilizing approximately 100,000 troops in construction sites since 1986 to make up for labor shortages. This has nothing to do with arms reduction."

It has been learned that North Korean troops are very dissatisfied with excessive labor mobilization.

Seoul Warns US Firm About Fighter Contract

SK3003023891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—General Dynamics has been warned that South Korea will reconsider its purchase of 120 F-16s if the U.S. company violates the contract in any fashion, particularly with reference to price and technology transfer, a senior government official said Friday.

"President No Tae-u, when approving the introduction Thursday of 120 F-16 Fighting Falcons as next-generation fighters, made it clear that South Korea would basically rescreen out the purchase program if GD (General Dynamics) did not stick to the terms of the contract," he said on condition of anonymity.

"Accordingly, the goverment notified GD of its basic position, and GD pledged immediately not to violate the agreed terms of the contract like its archrival McDonnell Douglas, the original contractor for the Korean fighter program, which unilaterally raised the price of its FA-18 hornets even after the contract, violating the terms of the contract scrapped by the Korean side later," he said.

Meanwhile, No has instructed the Defense Ministry to make its KFP [Korean Fighter Program] management office bigger by adding experts from the Economic Planning Board, the Trade and Industry Ministry and the Science and Technology Minstry, and to work out ways to foster Korea's aerospace industry using the F-16 fighters as momentum.

More Firms Permitted To Open Beijing Branches

SK0104121891 Seoul YONHAP in English 1206 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—Five more South Korean companies have won permission from the Foreign Economic Relations and Trade Ministry of China to set up their Beijing branches, business sources said Monday.

They are Lucky-Goldstar International, Samsung Co., Koryo Trade International, Ssangyong Corp. and Pohang Iron and Steel Co., which have had two officials stationed in the Chinese capital each since 1986.

A Lucky-Goldstar official in Beijing reported to his company in Seoul that he had received a verbal notification from the Chinese Ministry that it would hand out a permission certificate on Thursday, the sources said. The other companies reportedly have received similar messages.

At the end of last year, Sunkyong Corp. won permission to open its Beijing branch for the first time as a Korean company.

Officials hoped an expanded presence of Korean private businesses in Beijing would help improve bilateral trade between the two countries along with the trade representative office of the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp., which was set up in January.

Developing PRC-USSR Relations Analyzed

SK0104071091 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 31 Mar 91 p 3

[Editorial: "The Changing Currents in the Northern World"]

[Text] In the rapid rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union we once again confirm the truth that when it comes to international relations, there are no such things as lasting allies or irreconcilable foes. In addition to the frequent mutual visits by high-ranking officials of the two countries, ultra-modern Soviet fighter-bombers participated in a friendship air show in an area close to Beijing. The cooperation between the two countries is growing stronger with each passing day in the political, economic, and military fields, as evidenced by the fact that China has agreed to provide the Soviet Union, which is plagued by economic troubles, with commodity loans worth $8 million.

Not only have China and the Soviet Union put to rest ideological feuds, but they also seem to have banded together in a united front to keep the U.S. sphere of influence in Asia from growing stronger. No sooner had Chinese Premier Li Peng criticized the movement to establish a new U.S.-led world order than deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Rogachev put forward a proposal for a conference of foreign ministers from Asian countries as if to respond to the former's criticism.

We have every reason to welcome such developing relations between the two countries as we have established

diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. However, we find it hard to interpret it merely as a sign of optimistic development of the situation. Of course, we may as well see the rapid rapprochement between China and the Soviet Union as a sign of change in our neighboring areas favorable to us as we have substantially been paving the way for the establishment of diplomatic relations with China after mutually opening trade missions.

Despite all this, we must clearly remember the fact that China still remains supportive of North Korea when it comes to its policy toward reunification of the Korean peninsula. The Soviet Union, too, seems to expand weapons sales to North Korea. So, it is practically impossible to predict when the Soviet policy toward the ROK will turn cold due to China's mediating role. It is imperative for us to keep this in mind and work out firm long- and short-term strategies in advance to cope with the changing situation in the international community.

Coincidentally, China and the Soviet Union happen to be countries that have many uncertain political and economic factors. The serious feud between the reformists and conservatives over political issues is one thing they have in common. Another thing they have in common is that these two countries have repeated numerous trials and errors over their attempted transition toward a capitalist market-oriented economy. When a domestic political situation is unstable, diplomatic policy is susceptible to changes as a matter of course. This being the case, our diplomacy based on economic cooperation should always be bolstered with promptness and well-orchestrated plans.

Another thing we should remember is that it is about time for us to revise or review the stereotyped theory of having the United States and Japan recognize North Korea in exchange for the recognition of South Korea by China and the Soviet Union. This is because the theory of cross-recognition of Korea by the four major powers, the legacy of the cold war structure, is losing its effectiveness at a time when the world order is dominated by the U.S.-led unipolar system, and when Sino-Soviet rapprochement is gathering speed.

So, rapid Sino-Soviet rapprochement should serve as an incentive to revise our diplomatic policy. The idea is that we need a process of converging the strength of the four major powers on a centrifugal point on our own.

Investor Interest Moves From PRC to East Bloc

SK0104031291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Slow progress in Seoul-Beijing relations brought South Korean investment in China to a virtual halt last month, trade sources said Monday. Few projects were approved in March, they said, though no official tally has been released.

The government approved 47 investment projects in China worth 67.9 million U.S. dollars last year and nine projects worth 8 million dollars in January-February.

The International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK) was consulted by 28 business projects in March about investment in China, the sources said. Most were small scale.

In the first two months of the year, the official consultant for investment in East-bloc nations dealt with 89 projects—seven worth more than 5 million dollars and 22 worth above 1 million dollars.

"China fervor is indeed cooling," an IPECK official said. "Small-sum investments, however, will continue, focusing on low-price and good-quality labor and aiming at simple transfer of production lines."

Korean investment in China began in 1988 and took off last October, when Seoul and Beijing agreed to exchange trade offices.

The fading China boom was attributed by the officials to the government's caution in overseas investment as it tries to achieve a better balance of trade and diplomacy.

Investors appear still nervous of political risk in China and fear China's discriminatory tariffs on South Korean products, so they are switching their investment targets to the Soviet Union, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Vietnam, the sources said.

500 Million U.S.-Dollar Loan for Moscow Signed

SK3003062891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0552 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The Korea Development Bank (KDB) and nine other Korean banks signed a loan contract Saturday with the Soviet bank for foreign economic affairs for 500 million U.S. dollars.

The Soviet Government guarantees repayment of the principal and interest, which is Libor (the London interbank offered rate) plus 1.25 percent per annum over five years, including a grace period of three years.

Last year Korea promised the Soviet Union 3 billion dollars, of which 1 billion was a bank loan. KDB is to sign a contract for the remaining 500 million dollars in the second half of the year.

Soviet Industrialists Visit Seoul, Make Offers

SK0104020891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—Economic negotiations between South Korea and the Soviet Union have got off to a rocky start, with the Koreans saying that the Soviets are making "unreasonably low" offers for their goods.

Industrialists from the two nations are meeting in Seoul to discuss prices and shipment dates for items the Soviets are to buy using 2 billion dollars in tied loans and export credits from Korea. The Soviets want to import raw materials and consumer goods, but the Koreans say the amount they are offering to pay is so low that the talks have run into major problems even before getting off the ground.

The Soviets are offering, for example, to pay 2,500 U.S. dollars a ton for stainless steel plate and sheet. The average export price, however, is around 2,800 dollars a ton on a free on board (FOB) basis.

Representatives of Sammi Steel Co., Inchon Iron and Steel Co. and Pohang Iron and Steel Mill Co. say the Soviet-offered price cannot even cover their processing costs.

Negotiators from Hyundai Pipe Co., Union Steel Mfg. Co., Korea Steel Pipe Co. and Dongbu Steel Co. say they had hoped to sell 30,000 tons of steel pipe to the Soviet Union, but it may be impossible as the Soviets have made an offer that is 150 dollars a ton below the average export price.

The pipe manufacturers say negotiation is almost out of the question when it comes to the steel pipes for oil wells. The Soviets are offering 430 dollars a ton, but the export price is between 570 dollars and 580 dollars a ton and there is already a shortage.

Negotiators for petrochemical items are experiencing similar troubles due to the gulf between Korean export prices and Soviet offers.

Take low density polyethylene. Hanyang Chemical Corp. and Lucky Ltd. sell it for 1,100 dollars a ton, but the Soviets are offering some 200 dollars less.

The Soviets also want to buy high density polyethylene for 100 dollars under the average export price of 1,050 dollars a ton and are offering 950 dollars to 960 dollars a ton for polystyrene against an average of between 1,100 dollars and 1,300 dollars.

Mongolian Minister on ROK Right To Join UN

SK3003065091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0602 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea has rights as a member of the global community that include membership of the United Nations, Mongolian Foreign Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren said Saturday. It is the first time the foreign minister of Mongolia has indicated support for South Korea's U.N. membership.

"Establishing diplomatic ties between Korea and China falls within the purview of the two countries, but we hope they will develop full diplomatic relations," he said on leaving after a four-day visit.

Mongolia anticipates bilateral cooperation will encompass political, economic, and social sectors, but it will have no influence on relations with North Korea, he said.

He proposed a conference of eight nations—Mongolia, the United States, Japan, China, the Soviet Union, Canada, and South and North Korea, to discuss politics, economy, culture and the evironment.

Parties Prepare for Second Round of Elections

SK2803040891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—As the dust settles from Tuesday's elections, eyes are turning to the second stage of reintroducing local autonomy with balloting for provincial parliaments and councils in the six largest cities of the nation some time before the end of June.

Political parties will be allowed to nominate candidates and campaign for them openly this time, and so they are preparing election pledges and selecting candidates.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) hopes to repeat its success in the small council elections, where it won control of about 210 of the 260 local councils.

The DLP dominated in Seoul, a stronghold of Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), and won a substantial number of seats in North Cholla Province. The only regions that went to the PPD were Kwangju City and South Cholla Province, Kim's home ground.

The government party will concentrate its attack in Seoul and North Cholla, where the PPD is most vulnerable.

To capture Kwangju and South Cholla Province, the heart of PPD territory, the DLP plans to win over voters with grand pledges for regional development.

The PPD will thoroughly examine the cause of its thrashing in the first round of local elections and select its candidates for the second round as quickly as possible in case the DLP calls early elections in May.

A senior PPD official says district chapter chairmen had many problems running their chapters during the local elections and a complete review of their performance is inevitable.

The first step will be a meeting of district chapter chairmen in Seoul to discuss problems brought out by the elections, countermeasures and selection of candidates for the next round, he said.

Kim Tae-chung has said the PPD should be prepared for the government and DLP to call the elections in May, although the DLP has said it prefers June.

Opposition Parties Announce Integration Plans

SK3003062091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Representatives of the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) and the New Democratic Union Party (NDUP), in face-to-face talks, agreed Saturday morning to hold a national convention for their integration on April 9.

Members of the integration preparation committee, including PPD President Kim Tae-chung and NDUP Chairwoman Yi Wu-chong, confirmed an agreement to

unite their parties to eradicate regionalism, set up a "civilian-led democratic government" and bring the opposition together.

Kim and Yi will give a joint news conference April 3 on the creation of the new party, also to be called the NDUP.

They organized three working-level committees, on general affairs, platform and policy, and party constitution and rules, to speed up their integration.

DLP Picks Jun for Local Elections Second Stage

SK0104061291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0508 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Seoul, April 1 (YONHAP)—South Koreans go to the polls again in mid-June, for the second stage in the revival of local autonomy, if everything happens as planned by the government and its party.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the government have agreed to hold elections for legislatures in the large constituencies—six special cities and the provinces—in June, DLP Secretary-General Rep. Kim Yun-hwan said Monday.

Around June 10 would be best, he said, but the government had a free hand to pick a date.

The DLP had given thought to holding the elections in May, but dropped the idea "in order not to give the impression that we are taking advantage of the short notice and to avoid the busy season for farmers," Kim said.

The ruling party plans to deal with a number of controversial law bills, concerning national security and the Agency for National Security Planning before the elections. An extra session of the National Assembly is eyed for mid-April for 14 to 20 days.

Koreans elected 3,489 men and women, and 615 won unopposed without a ballot, to serve on 260 city, county and municipal ward councils in the first round of local elections March 26, reviving local autonomy after a slumber of three decades. The ruling party garnered a landslide victory in the polls.

'Two Kims' Agree To End Feuding, Regionalism

SK0104063991 Seoul YONHAP in English 0618 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Taegu, South Korea, April 1 (YONHAP)—The "two Kims" agreed Monday to work together for an end to the feuding between South Korea's two rival regions and to restore the luster to politics, tarnished by a series of scandals.

Kim Yong-sam, from Yongnam [North and South Kyongsang Provinces], executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, and Kim Tae-chung, from Honam [North and South Cholla Provinces], head of the Party for Peace and Democracy, reached the agreement after a prayer meeting for the nation organized by clergymen from the two regions.

Confrontation and antagonism are chronic between Yongnam, the Kyongsang provinces in the Southeast, and Honam, the Cholla provinces in the Southwest.

The two agreed that not only themselves but all politicians should make an effort to eradicate regional confrontation and restore politics, according to aides.

The two Kims both ran against President No Tae-u in the presidential election in December 1987, after regional rivalry prevented the opposition from choosing a unified candidate. Kim Yong-sam switched horses to the ruling party last year.

The two leaders also exchanged views on the timing for a special National Assembly session, the second round of local council elections and revision of the Local Election Law.

They agreed an extra session should be held in the middle of April to revise "reform bills" and the Local Election Law and that their parties should agree to hold the larger unit local elections in June, their aides said.

In the prayer meeting, at Kumho Hotel, Kim Yong-sam told the nearly 1,000 participants he would make every effort to eradicate regionalism. He suggested that all Christian churches initiate a "practice of love" campaign to remove regional confrontation and that they should keep it up until Korea is unified.

Kim Tae-chung asked Christian leaders to set aside their prejudice and "collective egoism" to do away with regional antagonism, which was a "byproduct of military dictatorship."

Ruling party officials accompanying them included floor leader Kim Chong-ho, spokesman Pak Hui-tae and Secretary-General Kim U-sok. From the opposition there were adviser Mun Tong-hwan and Vice Presidents Pak Yong-suk and Hong Yong-ki.

To Oppose Parliamentary System

SK0104122091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1145 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Taegu, South Korea, April 1 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung agreed Monday to keep the present presidential system and oppose any attempt to revise the Constitution to replace it with the parliamentary cabinet system of government.

Announcing a five-point agreement after ending a tete-a-tete, Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), said he and the other Kim, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (LDP), also agreed to make joint efforts to end the chronic confrontation between their home regions, Cholla and Kyongsang Provinces.

The duo agreed the second round of local elections, which are to set up councils in larger units, would be held in June. They decided to leave the exact date in the hands of senior negotiators of their parties.

The two political leaders, who still have their ambitions on the presidency, said they were agreeing on the need to maintain the present parliamentary election system of electing one lawmaker from one constituency.

The two Kims lost to President No Tae-u in the last presidential election and hope to run against each other in the next presidential race, expected in late 1992.

The two met for about 45 minutes after attending a prayer service organized by clergymen from Yongnam (Kyongsang) and Honam (Cholla). They last met when Kim Yong-sam visited Kim Tae-chung on Oct. 11 last year.

They said they opposed using law-enforcement agencies to prop up political power and that "politics should be handled by politicians."

Opposition politicians often charge the government and the ruling party with using the police, prosecution and intelligence agencies, which handle public order and security problems, to suppress all who do not agree with them. Kim Yong-sam was in the opposition until he joined No's party last year.

The two Kims agreed to work for the revision of the National Security Law and the law of the Agency for National Security Planning during a special sitting of the National Assembly this month.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government Agrees To Resume Aid to Vietnam

BK3003064291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0611 GMT 30 Mar 91

[By Leu Siew Ying]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 30 (AFP)—Malaysia has agreed to resume aid to Vietnam, suspended since 1978 when Hanoi invaded Cambodia, and to supply it with much-needed fertilisers, officials said here Saturday.

Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, the Foreign Ministry secretary-general, said Malaysia would resume technical assistance to Vietnam to rehabilitate its rubber industry immediately while working out possible joint ventures with Vietnamese partners.

Mr. Kamil was briefing reporters after five days of talks here with a nine-member Vietnamese delegation led by Mai Ky, the vice chairman of the State Planning Commission, on how to improve bilateral economic cooperation. He had wrapped up the talks saying Malaysia hoped its move to assist Vietnam would prompt other association of Southeast Asian (ASEAN) countries to follow suit, said Yahya Baba, the under-secretary with responsibility for Vietnam.

ASEAN, which groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, has condemned Vietnam for invading Cambodia. Vietnam pulled out its occupying troops in 1989.

Malaysia had completed a study into how to rehabilitate Vietnam's rubber industry, damaged during the war with the United States, and started training Vietnamese officials in 1978 but stopped the assistance programme after the invasion.

Mr. Kamil said Malaysia had agreed to supply Vietnam with 100,000 tonnes to 200,000 tonnes of fertilisers in the second and third quarters of the year in exchange for rice of an equivalent value. He said Malaysia was prepared to provide Vietnam with assistance to process its rice to meet the five per cent broken rice quality requested by Kuala Lumpur.

Vietnam has also asked Malaysia to supply it with 120 million metric tonnes of crude oil, a request that Mr. Kamil said the national oil company, Petronas, and Petrovietnam would discuss further.

"Petronas and Petrovietnam will work out a formula on the supply of oil to Vietnam," he said.

Sources said that Vietnam would face problems paying for its purchase in hard currency but that Petronas might ask to participate in its oil industry in return for the oil.

The Malaysian and Vietnamese officials also discussed Malaysia's request for Malaysia Airlines to be allowed a fourth flight to Vietnam, Mr. Kamil said. The national carrier now flies three times a week to Ho Chi Minh City and wants to mount a fourth flight to Hanoi, while Air Vietnam has two weekly flights to Kuala Lumpur from Ho Chi Minh City.

"My own impression is that Vietnam is quite positive. Given the need to cooperate with us, I am sure something acceptable to both sides will be achieved," Mr. Kamil said. He added that tourism was a potential area of cooperation which could be taken up in future meetings.

Mr. Kamil said he also took the opportunity to note that Vietnamese refugees were a burden to Malaysia and that Vietnam needed to take action to relieve Malaysia's load.

Malaysian and Vietnamese Foreign Ministry officials are expected to meet later this year to resume talks which broke down a year ago when Vietnam refused to accept forcible repatriation of refugees in Malaysia.

Deputy Foreign Minister Meets French Official

BK2903155791 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0835 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur March 28 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan [words indistinct].

He said the French Government was looking for trade partners in the region and felt that Malaysia was the "balance centre".

"They have identified the potentials that can be explored and want to take part in Malaysia's development process," he told reporters after a (?30)-minute meeting with the French minister of state in the Prime Minister's Department, Tony Dreyfus.

Dreyfus, accompanied by his wife and four officials, arrived here Wednesday night for a six-day visit. He had earlier called on Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Over the past four years, the trade volume between the two countries has grown [words indistinct] significant increase, recording M [Malaysian] $1.87 billion (U.S. $692 million) in 1987, M $2.15 billion (U.S. $796 million) in 1988, M $2.45 billion (U.S. $907 million) in 1989, and M $1.64 billion (U.S. $607 million) from January to September last year.

France is Malaysia's fourth largest trading partner in the European Community after Germany, Holland, and the United Kingdom.

Abdullah Fadzil said Malaysia was also varying its exports from primary commodities to semi-manufactured and manufactured goods which presently made up more than (?50) percent of its exports to France.

He said a French company, Chantiers de l'Atlantique, was awarded a contract worth U.S. $1.2 billion last month to supply five LNG [liquefied natural gas] tankers to Petronas [National Petroleum Corporation].

Another French company is also involved in a joint venture with Airod in servicing and repairing aeroplanes besides securing the tender to supply three helicopters to the police force.

Abdullah Fadzil said Dreyfus had informed him that France did not oppose the formation of the East Asian Economic Grouping [EAEG] proposed by Malaysia.

It is a good sign for Malaysia that an influential country like France has shown positive response to the EAEG concept.

"He informed me that France understands and feels comfortable with the concept and that it can be a balancing factor in the current economic atmosphere, he added.

MCA Chief Views Declining Chinese Population

BK2903083091 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Mar 91 p 18

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—A decline in the size of the Chinese population in the country will not affect their political rights, Malaysian Chinese Association [MCA] President Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik said.

As such, the MCA would not preach that Chinese women should produce more children, he said.

"No sensible and responsible government would ignore the contributions of a race just because its number is small," he told reporters yesterday after chairing the party's weekly Presidential Council Meeting.

He said the government would want the best from all races and it would definitely take into consideration the aspirations and wishes of the Chinese even if their ratio of the total population has declined.

Datuk Ling, who is Minister of Transport, also said the question whether to have more or less children is a private and personal one that should be decided by each family, not by others.

In February, Datuk Wong See Wah, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, had advised Chinese women in Malaysia to have more children.

He said that Chinese political rights would be affected if the Chinese did not produce enough children.

He noted that the Chinese population had dropped by 5 per cent between 1970 and 1990, whereas the Malay population had increased by 4 per cent.

He warned that the Chinese in Malaysia might lose their influence in the country's economy within 10 years because of their declining numbers.

According to a Star report yesterday, President of the Malaysian India Congress (MIC), Datuk Seri Samy Vellu, said that every Indian family in the country should have at least five children.

The MIC leader, who last month urged Indians to marry early and have more children, said he would press ahead with this policy despite criticism from professionals.

He said that having bigger families would ensure that the rights of the Indian community would be maintained.

Mahathir Advises Ban on Logging in Selangor

BK2903092391 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Mar 91 p 1

[By Abu Yamin Salam]

[Text] Klang, Tues.—Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed has advised the Selangor Government to impose a total ban on logging activities to safeguard the environment and ensure sufficient water catchment areas in the State.

The advice was given in a meeting with Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhammad Taib at his office today.

Tan Sri Muhammad told the NEW STRAITS TIMES that the State Government would study the suggestion and come up with a decision in about two months.

The Menteri Besar, who indicated that the Prime Minister's advice was favourable to the State Government, said a committee would be set up immediately to study the matter.

"We will make this a priority as we too feel that steps have to be taken to maintain the greenbelts and forest reserves in Selangor and the Klang Valley," he said.

A total ban will result in Selangor losing $10 million annually in revenue, but Tan Seri Muhammad said the amount was negligible compared to the benefits the public would get if the forest reserves and the greenbelts were preserved.

He added that the State Government last year decided to stop issuing new logging permits for the next three years to enable the State Forestry Department to carry out rehabilitation programmes.

About 400,000 cubic metres of timber were extracted in 1989. The Menteri Besar said only one per cent of the area under forest in the State was for logging.

At the meeting, Tan Sri Muhammad briefed Dr Mahathir on the status of the Sungai Buloh low-cost housing project by the Selangor Development Corporation which had caused a furore among environmentalists.

Tan Sri Muhammad said the Prime minister wanted the State Government to preserve the 1,000 ha of forest reserve and water catchment areas in Sungai Buloh as suggested by the Department of Environment, but he did not object to the housing project.

Tan Sri Muhammad said the State Government last year gazetted 72,000 ha of forest in Sabak Bernam as permanent forest reserve.

The new forest reserve, which is made up of the Raja Musa and Sungai Karang forest compartments, will serve as catchment area for the South West Agriculture

Scheme covering Tanjung Karang, Sungai Besar and Sungai Panjang, where some 250,000 people grow rice twice a year.

The new area increases Selangor's gazetted forest reserves to 242,655 hectares; or 31 per cent of its total land area.

Other forest reserves designated as catchment areas are located in Ulu Selangor, Ulu Godmbak, Ampang, Ulu Langat, and Sungai Lalang.

Cambodia

Government Appeals for International Food Relief

BK3003062691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0457 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 30—The State of Cambodia's Government yesterday launched an appeal to non-governmental and international organizations to grant food aid to Cambodia.

In a communique made public Friday afternoon, the government said:

"The State of Cambodia's Government would like to make known to the international and non-governmental organizations today that the country is facing a shortage of food—about 1,000,000 tons of rice—due to a poor harvest in 1990 caused by an insufficient supply of chemical fertilizer and a long spell of drought.

"In such a situation, the State of Cambodia's Government, through the president of the Committee for Receiving Humanitarian Relief Aid (CRHRA) would like to call on the international and non-governmental organizations to render generous assistance to Cambodia in solving the shortage of rice and other indispensable agricultural materials such as fertilizer, pesticide, fuel so that the State of Cambodia's Government may have relief aid to distribute to the needy peasants in time and help them in the current rice farming.

"The State of Cambodia's Government would like to thank all non- governmental and international organizations for their forthcoming aid in response to this appeal."

Rice Shortage in Phnom Penh

BK2903031091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] According to people and national resistance forces operating secretly in Phnom Penh, from 22 to 24 March 1991, there was no rice on sale in Phnom Penh. Electricity was cut and there was no kerosene in the market. Commodities prices have continued to rise. It is very difficult to buy goods, and only small amounts are available on the black market. The riel currency of the puppets, traitors to the nation and Vietnam's lackeys is worthless, worse than low-quality paper. It cannot buy any food. Only foreign currencies, gold, and dollars are wanted. Theft, burglary, and robbery are spreading all over the city. The majority of the thieves are Vietnamese soldiers and Vietnamese adolescents.

Ordinary citizens, Cambodian soldiers, low-level officials, and tricycle operators have an even tougher time; they cannot make ends meet. People in Phnom Penh angrily say that life in Phnom Penh now is very hard. People are almost starving to death while the Phnom Penh puppets continue to ask for contributions, extort money, and levy all kinds of taxes.

This clearly shows that the regime of Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, Vietnam's out-and-out lackeys, is nearing its death.

Foreign Minister Remarks on SNC Meeting

BK3103052691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 31 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh Government is ready to take part in a meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC) comprising all four factions involved in the Cambodian civil war, Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said.

"We are ready for a meeting of the SNC," Mr. Hor Namhong said Saturday, denying recent reports in which he was said to have placed conditions on Phnom Penh's participation.

Clarifying Phnom Penh's position, he stressed that it was the resistance coalition which opposed "calling an SNC meeting, as long as (Prince) Sihanouk is not (SNC) president even though he has said he was no longer a candidate (for the post)."

Prince Sihanouk is the nominal head of the resistance coalition in which his non-communist followers are allied to those of Cambodia's former Premier Son Sann and the Marxist Khmer Rouge, the dominant group.

The SNC, formed in Jakarta in September, is made up of six delegates from Phnom Penh and two from each of the three opposition factions.

"If the other side wants a modification of the SNC, we are ready to give the presidency to Sihanouk if (Phnom Penh) Prime Minister Hun Sen is named the only vice president," Mr. Hor Namhong said.

It is through the SNC that the resistance factions must discuss their points of discord on a plan of peace for Cambodia brokered by the United Nations.

Phnom Penh insists that the peace plan produced by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council—the United States, the Soviet Union, China, Britain and France—should give "sufficient guarantees to block the return of the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime" and is opposed to the dismantling of its army "the only force capable" of opposing a Khmer Rouge return.

The Khmer Rouge was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Cambodians during their rule from April 1975 to January 1979, when they were overthrown by Vietnamese troops who had invaded Cambodia.

"We accept returning to barracks and dumping arms under U.N. supervision," said Mr. Hor Namhong while stressing that the disarming of Phnom Penh forces would be easier than disarming the "Khmer Rouge and its allies" based in inaccessible areas and difficult to monitor.

The peace plan calls for regrouping, disarmaming and demobilising all armed forces involved in the 12-year-old civil war during a transitional period in which the United Nations would organise elections.

"All the parties involved must be realistic because a solution to the Cambodian problem must allow for the end of the civil war while at the same time preventing a return of the genocidal regime," he said.

Civilians Flee Fighting in Western Area

BK0104113291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1108 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bangkok, April 1 (AFP)—Fighting between guerrillas and government troops in western Cambodia has forced almost 2,000 Khmer Rouge civilians to flee, Thai military and guerrilla sources said Monday. The mass evacuation to the Khmer Rouge controlled town of Phum Thmei, only 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the Thai border, follows a massive attack by Phnom Penh troops against Khmer Rouge positions, the sources said.

The fighting started on Sunday when government troops at Ban Nimit base near the strategic Highway 5 used BM-21 multi-rocket launchers to pound the stronghold of the Khmer Rouge's 450 division near Phnum Malai mountain, only two kilometers from Thai border, they said.

Another of the Khmer Rouge's major bases at Takuon Krao village near Sisophon also came under heavy attack by Phnom Penh troops, the sources said.

Thai soldiers were put on alert Sunday at the border as the air vibrated with the sound of heavy rocket and artillery fire.

A senior Thai military official said the army was prepared to act if the fighting spilled over the border. "If there's any spillover, intentional or otherwise, we'll hit back," he said.

Thai villagers in the area have been told to be prepared to evacuate, the officer said.

Commentary Urges Inspection of Rivals' Zones

BK3103082691 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "The Strange Silence"]

[Text] Over one month has elapsed since Comrade Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, appealed to the United Nations and the Paris conference cochairmen to introduce measures proposed by the State of Cambodia's Foreign Ministry in late January 1991 on dispatching fact-finding teams to refugee camps and zones under the control of the other Cambodian side. For the Cambodian people, the mission is of vital importance to enhance a future political settlement in the situation where the reactionary Cambodian factions within the genocidal alliance are still ambitiously aimed at achieving enormous interest in a military settlement. However, it is regrettable that the call seems to be not heeded yet thus far. The conspicuous silence has caused deep suspicion and concern to the Cambodian people, victims of the protracted civil war caused by the other Cambodian side. On the silence befalling since the proposal presented by the State of Cambodia's Foreign Ministry, our people thought that it was presumably due to the international community's preoccupation with the commitment of extinguishing the flame of the war in the Persian Gulf. On 28 February 1991, the Gulf war was brought to an end, and only on 7 March, the State of Cambodia reminded the proposal, but so far there is no feedback yet.

In the past, the United Nations and the Paris conference cochairmen sent the fact-finding missions to the State of Cambodia on several occasions. And with the wholehearted welcome and assistance of the government of the State of Cambodia, those missions visited various localities in the motherland of Angkor and thoroughly studied the country's social structure as they wished. That being the case, the assistance provided to the teams is clear evidence of the State of Cambodia's goodwill in achieving a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

According to foreign informed sources, the fact-finding teams prepared a report of more than 2,000 pages on the vitality of the State of Cambodia, which is in control of the territory and the social life of the people in all fields. Nevertheless, when the State of Cambodia proposes the same task be carried out in refugee camps and the so-called zones controlled by the genocidal alliance, it appears that the fact-finding mission becomes insignificant and unobservant. People believe that the fact that no fact-finding team has yet been dispatched there is because there is fear that the truth will be discovered or the genocidal alliance has not allowed for the inspection. Everyone knows that although it remained in the United Nations over the past 12 years, the genocidal alliance never permitted the representative of any international organization to broadly tour their camps.

If the silence is due to the aforementioned cause, it is extremely regretful that to date no organization has the influence over the genocidal alliance yet. If it is the case, in the future can the Polpotist clique be prevented from committing another genocide in Cambodia? Leaders of the genocidal alliance have repeatedly made known their so-called total and unconditional acceptance of the UN peace plan. So, if the genodical alliance wanted to sincerely resolve the Cambodian problem via political means, we think that it would not have refused the fact-finding mission.

In order to brush away suspicion and achieve a degree of fairness, allowing the fact-finding missions to refugee camps and the so-called zones controlled by the genocidal alliance is a major contribution to promoting and expediting a political settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Sihanouk Rejects AFP Report on SNC Meeting

BK3003072291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] In a letter issued yesterday, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk rejected an AFP report which reported that he had said that the Phnom Penh regime and Vietnam blocked a meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. He denied either making or writing such a statement claiming that the Phnom Penh authority and Vietnam obstructed the SNC meeting. He said, however, that his remarks to some friends who had met him in Beijing was that the Cambodian issue to date is a problem between Vietnam and Cambodia.

The samdech further said: If any SNC meeting is to take place, it should be held with the participation of other foreign authorities such as the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia and a representative of the UN secretary general, because international public opinion should not be deceived by the puppet Heng Samrin regime's foul play designed to turn the Cambodian problem, which is in fact a real international issue, into a problem among the Cambodians.

In his denial letter, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk also reaffirmed that he is neither the leader of the resistance side [preah prathean pheaki neak tar su] nor the supreme commander of the National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC]. He said he resigned as president of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] and as the supreme commander of the NAIC more than a year and a half ago.

The samdech pointed out that the copresidents of the FUNCINPEC are Samdech Chakkrey Nhiek Tioulong and Princess Monique Sihanouk, and the supreme commander of the NAIC is Prince Norodom Ranariddh. However, he reaffirmed that he continues to remain as the president of the tripartite Cambodian coalition resistance movement [pratheaneathipadei ney chalana tar su khmer teang bei pheaki].

VONADK: District Township Attacked

BK3003031891 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] On 25 March, our national resistance forces attacked Cheung Prey District's township at Skun seat [Kompong Cham Province] and completely dismantled the following five administrative networks of the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Prey Cha Commune on North Phnom Penh battlefield: Phneou Khang Keut, Phneou Khang Lech, Prey Cha Khnong, Prey Cha Krau, and (Kien Taeuy). We killed two, wounded five, and captured five enemy soldiers. And we destroyed two barracks and a good deal of war materiel and seized two AK and one SKS rifles and some war materiel.

VONADK: SRV Troops Attacked Near Pailin

BK3003032091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 29 Mar 91

["Special Report" on attack against the Vietnamese enemy aggressors on Pailin-Route 10 battlefield]

[Text] Between 25 and 27 March, eight tanks and some 600 Vietnamese ground troops employed by the Vietnamese enemy aggressors to launch an offensive from Phdau toward the west on Pailin-Route 10 battlefield were attacked, routed, and forced to beat a hasty retreat behind their lines. The national resistance forces killed or wounded a great many Vietnamese enemy soldiers; some of them were carried away by their comrades while others were left on the field. We also destroyed two tanks and seized three others.

At this time, we are continuing our attacks to dislodge those Vietnamese enemy aggressors.

Laos

LPRP 5th Congress Concludes 29 Mar

BK3003054091

[Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 0730 GMT on 29 March begins live coverage from Vientiane of the closing ceremony of the three-day Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP].

At the beginning of the broadcast, the announcer says that according to the congress agenda, the 24-member presidium of the congress will attend the closing ceremony. He recites some names of members of the presidium who were also present at the congress opening ceremony on 27 March, such as "Kaysone Phomvihan, Souphanouvong, Nouhak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, Khamtai Siphandon, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh who represents the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], General Secretary Heng Samrin representing the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], Burokevicius representing the CPSU, and Pu Chaozhu representing the CPC. These members of the presidium will be seated in the first or front row. In the second row will be seated Phoun Sipaseut; Sisomphon Lovansai; Sisavat Keobounphan; Saman Vi-gnaket; Maichantan Sengmani; Oudom Khatthi-gna; Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, representing the KPRP; and Le Duc Anh, representing the CPV. To be seated in the third row of the presidium are Somlat Chanthamat, Choummali Sai-gnason, Bolang Boualapha, Mrs. Onchan Thammavong, Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, Bounthan Souvannasouk, and Colonel Douangchai. The presidium comprises 24 members."

The announcer then reviews the sequence of events during the congress, including the presentation of the political report of the LPRP Central Committee by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, the report on the amended party regulations read by Oudom Khatthigna, and the speeches made by Nguyen Van Linh and

Heng Samrin, respectively general secretaries of the CPV and the KPRP Central Committees, on 27 March.

At 0739 GMT, the announcer reports that many delegates and invited guests are beginning to arrive at the "main meeting hall." After describing the "joyous" atmosphere prevailing at the meeting hall, the announcer approaches and interviews Kham-ouan Boupha, first deputy minister of agriculture and forestry and a delegate to the congress, on the ministry's plan to organize the implementation of the political report presented by the general secretary with regard to agricultural and forestry work.

After chatting with Deputy Minister Khamm-ouan Boupha for 15 minutes, at 0755 GMT the announcer reports: "Now, the presidium of the congress, led by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan and followed by Nouhak Phoumsavan, Phoumi Vongvichit, CPV General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, KPRP General Secretary Heng Samrin, the delegates of the CPSU and the CPC, President Souphanouvong, and all members of the 24-man presidium, begin to arrive at the meeting hall amid loud applause."

At 0757 GMT, an unidentified master of ceremonies gives an opening speech saying:

"Respected presidium and foreign and local guests of honor;

"Beloved comrades:

"Today, our congress (?is coming to an end). Now, I would like to invite Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna to report to the congress on the outcome of the election of the fifth highest party leading organization to the congress."

At 0759 GMT, Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the LPRP Central Committee, begins reading the report on the outcome of the election of the "fifth party Central Committee" by the fifth party congress.

In his report, Oudom Khatthi-gna says: "The fifth party Central Committee comprises 59 comrade members: 55 full members and four alternate members, four of whom are (?women). Of the comrade members comprising this party Central Committee, 22% are over 60 years old, 30.50% are 50 to 59 years old, and 47.45% are under 49 years old. The oldest member is 77 years old and the youngest is 35 years old. Five comrades are former members of the Indochinese Communist Party. Of all the party Central Committee members, 94.91% engaged in the national-democratic revolution. Some 59 comrade members have been tested and tempered in actual revolutionary movements. They are very active and enthusiastic in engaging in the cause of restructuring and are excellent models for all cadres, party members, and people in carrying out the tasks of national defense and national construction over the past 15 years. A number of the new party Central Committee members have attended study courses on Marxist-Leninist theory and many high-level training and refresher courses. Some 40.67% of the comrade members of this party Central Committee have received university or university level educations."

Oudom Khatthi-gna then begins reading the list of 59 names of full and alternate members of the fifth party Central Committee and the list of names of members of the Political Bureau with "Kaysone Phomvihan" as "chairman of our party."

He also acknowledges the appointment of the "advisory committee of the party Central Committee" with three former senior revolutionaries and members of the party Central Committee—Souphanouvong, Phoumi Vongvichit, and Sisomphon Lovansai—as members.

At 0808 GMT, Somsavat Lengsavat, head of the congress secretariat, begins reading a 10-minute "resolution" of the fifth party congress for endorsement by the delegates.

After Somsavat Lengsavat finishes reading the resolution, the master of ceremonies asks the delegates who approve the resolution to raise their "cards." There is no opposition to the resolution. The congress participants subsequently enthusiastically applaud the endorsement of the resolution.

The announcer then reports that after the adoption of the resolution, a number of Vientiane residents "representing the people in the entire country" flock into the meeting hall to congratulate the congress on its success, amid tumultuous applause.

At 0823 GMT, an undidentified representative takes the podium and expresses best wishes to the congress. He reviews the emulation campaigns carried out by the Lao people, especially in Vientiane Municipality, over the past year to attain achievements to welcome the fifth party congress. He stresses: "We would like to wholeheartedly hail the success of the Fifth LPRP Congress. The outcome of the fifth congress will become a triumphant torch illuminating the path for Vientiane residents as well as all Lao people throughout the country to continue implementing and realizing the cause of restructuring and new duties outlined at this congress." He concludes by wishing that all the party leaders and all delegates enjoy "everlasting happiness and long life" so that they can continue to lead the Lao people to prosperity.

At 0826 GMT, Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the Political Bureau, comes out to thank the Vientiane well-wishers.

In his short speech, he says: "On behalf of the congress, I would like to express our thanks to the people of all strata in Vientiane capital for recording practical acheivements in your emulation campaigns, which you have raised here as a symbolic gesture to welcome and salute the fifth congress. I would like to thank you once again."

Amid the sounds of the beating of gongs, cymbals, and drums, the well-wishers begin to leave the meeting hall.

At 0828 GMT, party Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan takes to the rostrum to deliver a speech officially declaring the congress closed at 0840 GMT. The closure is preceded by the playing of the "Internationale."

Congress Resolution

BK2903115791 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0808 GMT 29 Mar 91

["Resolution adopted by the fifth national congress of delegates of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party" [LPRP], convened in Vientiane from 27 to 29 March 1991, read by Somsavat Lengsavat, head of the congress secretariat, at the closing of the congress on 29 March—live]

[Text] The fifth congress of the LPRP was convened in the capital of Vientiane from 27 to 29 March. Attending the congress were 367 delegates from various services, localities, and grass roots organizations throughout the country, representing some 60,000 party members.

1. After studying and discussing it in detail, the congress agrees unanimously with the political report of the fourth party Central Committee presented by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan. The political report appraises the process of the overall cause of restructuring in our country in the past five years. The congress affirms that even though the world and regional situations are changing in a complex manner, that even though the various hostile forces have carried out activities to subvert and destroy our country in all fields with cunning and notorious tricks, and that even though our socioeconomic situation has been plagued with numerous difficulties, we have managed to securely defend our national independence and sovereignty and the new regime, thus fundamentally and firmly ensuring political stability, peace, and order in society and continuing to advance the country along the defined direction. Our country remains unified as one. The people's spirit of being the masters of their own country has been held higher aloft. The multiethnic people have enjoyed equality; have coexisted with one another with unity, harmony, affection, and friendship; and have joined with one another in defending and building the country with a sense of enthusiasm and jubilation. Democracy in all aspects of social life has been enhanced. The popular democratic system has been gradually and explicitly consolidated and upgraded.

The abovementioned great successes and victories in various fields and the firm steps taken are but the fruits of the collective efforts of the entire party, army, and people. At the same time, they are also the fruits of the invaluable assistance of fraternal and friendly countries and international organizations. The congress analyzes and solemnly and profoundly criticizes the shortcomings and remaining problems, clearly points out subjective and objective causes, and draws many excellent lessons. The congress hears a report on an evaluation of the fourth party Central Committee and conducts self- and mutual criticism with a frank and constructive spirit. The congress highly assesses the great efforts, perseverance, steadfastness, and creativeness provided in the leadership and guidelines given by the fourth party Central Committee and by the Political Bureau and the Secretariat of the party Central Committee headed by Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan. At the same time, the congress analyzes and solemnly and reasonably criticizes the shortcomings and remaining problems of the groups and individuals in the fourth party Central Commitee.

2. The congress affirms that the revolution in our country at present is in the period of continuing to build and develop the popular democratic system and of creating fundamental factors for gradual advancement toward socialism. The overall direction and duties of our entire people in the immediate future are to continue the cause of all-round restructuring; to increase the unity and singularity of the entire Lao people on the basis of the alliance of workers, farmers, intellectuals, and students under the party leadership; to attentively promote the multisectoral economy; to aim at vigorously developing production forces; to transform the natural and seminatural economy into the goods economy; to gradually improve the material and cultural life of the multiethnic people; to enhance democracy in all aspects of our social life; to cherish the roles of mass and social organizations; to build the state apparatuses into the tools genuinely belonging to and serving the people as prescribed by the Constitution and laws; to incessantly upgrade the party's leadership role within the political system; to consolidate the national defense and public security maintenance work among the entire people; to securely defend the national independence and sovereignty and the new system; to ensure political stability, peace, and order in the entire society; and to continue developing and broadening the relations and cooperation with many countries and international organizations. All this is to build Laos into a country with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity, contributing to the cause of peace and social progress in the world.

The congress clearly defines the fundamental views, direction, and major plans and policies in the socioeconomic sector in accordance with the new mechanisms as well as in the national defense and public security maintenance work and foreign affairs. The congress attaches special importance to the building and consolidating of the political system, especially in restructuring the party building work aimed at increasing the capabilities and quality of the party leadership. The fifth party Central Committee is entrusted by the congress to realize the organizing, guiding, and implementing of the lines toward domestic and foreign affairs spelled out in the political report.

3. The congress studies, discusses, and unanimously endorses the report on the amendment of the party regulations presented by Comrade Oudom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau alternate member and secretary of the party Central Committee. The amended party regulations put an emphasis on five principles and three guidelines in the party building in the new period. The amended regulations become effective beginning 1 May 1991.

4. The congress wholeheartedly commends and hails all cadres, party members, combatants, people of all ethnic groups and strata, and Buddhist clergy for having further enhanced the tradition of patriotism, unity, and harmony; overcome all difficulties and numerous trials; contributed

wisdom, labor, lives, and material property to the cause of restructuring; won great victories in many fields; and created many firm steps in the tasks of national defense and national construction. The congress calls on the entire party, army, and people to unite as one around the fifth party Central Committee in striving to fulfill the duties outlined at the congress (?so as to make as many contributions as possible to) the tasks of national defense and national construction; to strengthen the special traditional solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with Vietnam and Cambodia, the close solidarity and comprehensive cooperation with the Soviet Union, the PRC, and the fraternal countries; to broaden relations and cooperation with friendly countries and international organizations; and to participate in the activities of the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations. All this is aimed at building Laos into a country with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity, thus contributing to the overall cause of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the world.

[Dated] 29 March 1991

[Signed] The fifth national congress of delegates of the LPRP

Kaysone Phomvihan Speech

BK2903123991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0828 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Speech by Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, at the closing ceremony of the fifth party congress in Vientiane on 29 March—live]

[Text] Respected members of the presidium and foreign and local guests;

Beloved delegates to the congress:

Up to this moment, the task of this congress has been [words indistinct]. During the discussion and deliberation of various important problems of the party and country, the delegates have demonstrated their high sense of responsibility, which has led to the brilliant success of the fifth congress of our party. This congress is convened as the general situation is rather confusing in many aspects. As we all know, during the congress our delegates have exerted their mental efforts to energetically promote democracy and unanimously have agreed with the overall picture of the process of restructuring as prescribed in the political report. During the discussion of various problems, the delegates realistically and correctly evaluated the successes of our people. At the same time, they analyzed and discussed every detail of our weak points and shortcomings and hence drew several valuable lessons from them. Through the special characteristics and actual conditions of our country and lessons learned by various countries, the congress has reaffirmed the determination of the entire party and people to carry on the task of restructuring with objectives and firm and appropriate steps to achieve their noble goal, apply the general principles of Marxism-Leninism, promote and expand the popular democracy, uphold the effectiveness of the state management, increase the party's leading role in the entire society, and strengthen the genuine spirit of patriotism [words indistinct]. All of these are aimed at continuing the strengthening of the popular democratic system, creating the primary factors for our advancement toward socialism step by step, and contributing to the task of peace and social progress in the world. [applause]

The delegates have elected the new set of the central executive committee to carry out the task of implementing the resolution of this congress. The committee comprises comrades who have been tested during different stages of the revolution and possess rich experiences, as well as those comrades who have been growing up from the actual working movements, which show the continuity and firm expansion of the leadership.

Beloved comrades, the success of this congress once again reaffirms the high-level unity and solidarity, growth, and firmness in all aspects of our party. At the same time, it is the fruit of the overall increase of the intelligence and the strong determination of the entire party and our people. We are elated with the participation in this congress by cadres, revolutionary combatants, senior personalities, and representatives of the people of all tribes and strata, including Buddhist monks. We express our thanks and wish you comrades good health and longevity so that you can continue to contribute to the overall tasks of our nation. We are extremely pleased with the participation in this congress by the top-level delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam led by respected and beloved Comrade General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh, the top-level delegation of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party led by respected and beloved Comrade General Secretary Heng Samrin, the CPSU delegation led by Comrade Burokevicius, Politburo member of CPSU Central Committee, and the CPC delegation led by Comrade Pu Chaozhu, member of the CPC Central Committee.

On this auspicious occasion, our congress expresses profound thanks to the delegations from the fraternal parties for the spirit of comradely and brotherly solidarity, encouragement, and great support they have conveyed to the congress, the entire party, and our Lao people. At the same time, we wish to thank other fraternal parties for their warm greetings sent to our party congress. [applause]

We thank members of the foreign diplomatic corps and respresentatives of the international organizations in our country for the honor rendered to this congress with their presence. [applause]

Beloved comrades, our party congress has received praiseworthy success. Our urgent duty is to do whatever we can to turn this historically meaningful resolution adopted by this party congress into extensive and continuous movement of actions by the people of all tribes and strata. Under the beacon of this congress and with the traditional unity, strong patriotic spirit of the people, and assistance from the friendly and fraternal countries in the world, we firmly

believe that the task of turning Laos into a peaceful, independent, democratic, united, and prosperous country will be fulfilled. [applause]

In the joyous atmosphere, I hereby declare the official closure of the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party. Thank you. [applause]

Rally Held in Vientiane

BK3003093191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Respected listeners, as reported earlier, beginning at 0610 this morning, more than 13,000 Vientiane residents held a grand rally at the National Stadium in Vientiane capital to hail the glorious success of the fifth congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP].

In his speech deliverd at the meeting, Nouphat Chounlamani, member of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and member of the Lao Front for National Construction Committee of Vientiane municipal chapter, stated: The fifth LPRP congress is a political event of historic significance to our nation. It is part of the history of the growth and development of the LPRP—the organizer and leader of all victories of the Lao revolution—which is 36 years old this year.

The LPRP was the offspring of the Indochinese Communist Party and grew and developed alongside the arduous, trying and protracted struggle waged by the Lao people for freedom and national independence. Under the leadership of the LPRP, the Lao people, who fought for national liberation for more than three decades against the imperialist aggressors, finally won a great victory with the establishment of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on 2 December 1975. That event constituted a new turn in the history of the Lao nation and in our struggle to build Laos into a country with peace, independence, democracy, unification, and proposperity.

Nouphat Chounlamani went on to say that the fifth congress is held at a time when our entire party, army, and people are rejoicing over the initial success of their attempts to implement the party's cause of structuring and enhancement of democracy in all aspects of our socioeconomic sector. In recent years, Vientiane residents have made great efforts in implementing the resolution adopted at the fourth party congress as well as the numerous decisions adopted by the party Central Committee. They have energetically implemented the restructuring policy in the economy and have actively contributed to fulfilling the tasks of national defense and national construction, thus changing the face of the capital in many fields, gradually improving their own living conditions, maintaining peace and order in (?all localities in the city), and deepening their faith in the party's line and the new regime. These achievements and victories have been won thanks to the LPRP leadership headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan. Gratitude is also given to the guidance provided by the party and administrative committees of Vientiane Municipality, and to the dedication, contribution, unity, and cohesion of all party members, cadres, state employees, workers, combatants, people of all strata, and Buddhist clergy in this city, who have developed a deep affection for the party and state. Various ministries, departments, and units at the center as well as aliens living in Vietniane capital and friends in the international community have also rendered tremendous assistance and support to us (?in various forms).

Nouphat Chounlamani says: The political report presented by respected and beloved Comrade General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan at the Fifth Party Congress collectively and thoroughly assesses the development of restructuring in our country. The political report notes that even though the world and regional situation are complexly changing with certain hostile forces carrying out subversive activities against our country and the socioeconomic situation being plagued with numerous difficulties, we have managed to securely defend our national independence and sovereignty and to basically maintain political stability, peace, and social order, thus creating (?favorable) steps for the restructuring to progress.

Nouphat Chounlamani points out that the Fifth Party Congress has elected the new party Central Committee and has unanimously elected respected and beloved Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan chairman of the LPRP Central Committee. At the same time, the congress also endorsed the amended party regulations and approved the resolution adopted by the fifth national congress of party delegates. While the congress was underway in Vientiane, people both in Vientiane capital and elsewhere throughout the country were joyously following and closely monitoring its proceedings.

Nouphat Chounlamani adds that the success of the fifth party congress has raised the party's status and leadership role in the eyes of people at home and abroad. It is a beacon illuminating the path for Vientiane residents and the entire Lao people for the continued implementation and realization of the line and policy of restructuring and new duties outlined by the congress. We would like to express our sincere confidence in the correct leadership of teh LPRP and our wholehearted and unified support to the resolution of the fifth congress.

He goes on to say: We who are gathered here today pledge that we will be firm and steadfast in the party; firmly grasp, appreciate, and translate into reality the resolution adopted by the party in the new period of the revolution; energetically turn to the grass roots; and strive to boost production to improve our living conditions. In the immediate future, we will pay close attention to tending and harvesting dry season rice and to preparations for planting main season rice so as to increase grain production. We pledge to mobilize people to plant other substitute crops and raise livestock, to promote industrial and handicraft production, to broaden the trade network and services as well as communications, transport, and construction. We pledge to help generate more revenue for state budgets by paying taxes to state from business production operations. We pledge to increase and upgrade the quality of education in this city. We also pledge to pay closer attention to giving

medical care to people by expanding the public health network, and to bring more social and cultural order in conformity with the fine tradition and customs of our nation. We pledge to educate the people of all strata to be patriotic and to love the new regime, to further strengthen and enhance the tradition of mutal assistance and affection, to maintain unity and cohesion, and to have faith in the party and to adhere to its guidance. We pledge to maintain vigilance in carying out public security maintenance work in Vientiane capital so as to safeguard the people's property and lives. We will strengthen our cooperation with international friends to contribute to the cause of peace and social progress in the world.

Nouphat Chounlamani concludes at the end that: To deserve the trust of the party and the Lao people throughout the country, let us—the entire residents of Vientiane capital—unite to build this capital into a city that is politcally firm, economically rich, socially and culturally prosperous, and militarily strong.

On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of all residents of Vientiane capital, I would like to hail the glorious success recorded the LPRP fifth congress.

Let us, Vientiane residents, be resolute in realizing and making the resolution of the Fifth Party Congress bear practical fruits as expected, thereby winning new and greater victories in fulfilling the tasks of defending and building our country and city.

3 Members of New Advisory Committee Named

BK2903122091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1205 GMT 29 Mar 91

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Vientiane, March 29 (AFP)—The end of an era dawned in Laos Friday as the communist old guard, led by Prince Souphanouvong, quit the Politburo to set up a special advisory committee to the nation's leaders.

The legendary Red Prince, along with his two aged comrades Phoumi Vongvichit and Sisomphon Lovansai, will make up a special advisory committee to the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP) Central Committee.

The announcement came at the end of the Fifth LPRP Congress, which saw members vote to end the iron rule of premier and party chief Kaysone Phomvihan and maintain one-party rule while pursuing the path towards a market economy.

In an unexpected move, the flamboyant mayor of Vientiane and former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sisavat Keobounphan was dropped from the new 11-member Politburo, although the reason was not immediately clear.

At the start of the key congress Wednesday, the top policy-making body consisted of three alternate members and 10 permanent members, following the death earlier this year of Sali Vongkhamsao.

The five new permanent members included two former alternate members, Oudom Khatthi-gna and Choummali Sai-gnason.

The three others were Khamphoui Keoboualapha, a former party chief in Saravane Province and an advocate of the open-door policy, Thongsing Thammavong, number two in the Lao Parliament, and Somlat Chanthamat, known as an ideologist and head of the Central Committee propaganda and training unit.

Changes also came in the 55-member LPRP Central Committee with younger blood brought in, as Mr. Kaysone advocated earlier. Four alternate members were also elected to the body.

Announcing the result of the election to the two key party bodies, Mr. Oudom said 47.45 percent of the Central Committee was under the age of 50 and about 40 per cent had received higher education.

The new Politburo member also said the Central Committee had "unanimously elected respected Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan as the president of the party." He said this was in recognition of the former secretary-general's "great virtues" and devoted three decades of leadership, especially during the years of renovation launched at the last party congress in November 1986.

The significance of changing his title to president was unclear. Some analysts said the change was aimed at softening the hard- line communist image of Laos, while others speculated that it gave more power to the 71-year-old Mr. Kaaysone.

Mr. Kaysone on Wednesday outlined past failures and successes and pointed to future tasks and orientations in a major political report adopted by the Central Committee Friday. The report called for economic reform aimed at ending centralised management, moving towards a market economy and opening the door further to foreign investment in this resource-rich but pitifully poor country after years of self-imposed isolation. The report also reaffirmed that "it is absolutely necessary to enhance the party's leading role."

Prince Souphanouvong, however, told journalists the holding of multi-party elections "depends on other people. It depends on the political evolution of the people."

The congress was open for the first time to non-socialist diplomats and Western journalists, a sign of Laos' desire to open up to the rest of the world.

The committee parties of Cambodia, China, Vietnam and the Soviet Union were represented, with party chief Nguyen Van Linh leading Hanoi's delegation and Heng Samrin leading his party from Phnom Penh.

A reception was to be held here Friday evening and a celebratory rally early Saturday.

Party Congress, Leadership Changes Viewed

BK0104015891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0500 GMT 31 Mar 91

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Vientiane, March 31 (AFP)—There were few major surprises at the recent Lao communist party congress, but analysts were examining the significance of personnel changes that included one prominent Politburo casualty.

The Fifth Lao People's [Revolutionary] Party Congress opted for continuation by adopting a political report that endorsed further economic reforms towards a decentralised market economy and legislation to attract foreign investors, while still stressing the leading role of the party.

The congress saw the elderly and ailing "red prince" Souphanouvong step down from the Politburo along with two other aged revolutionaries, Phoumi Vongvichit and Sisomphon Lovansai, to form a special advisory body to the Central Committee.

Observers said this was not entirely unexpected given the age and health of the three men, who were key figures in the struggle against the French and U.S.-backed Lao royalists before the communist takeover in 1975.

Nor was the decision to leave the party chief and premier, Kaysone Phomvihan, as the dominant figure in Lao political life, with his powers apparently enhanced by a change of title from prime minister to party secretary general.

"There was no dramatic change from the policies launched at the 1986 congress," which saw Laos begin to open its doors to the Western world and unshackle the economy, one envoy said.

But "maybe changes in the higher levels of the party will be more significant," he added.

The biggest surprise was the dropping from the Politburo of Vientiane Mayor and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sisavat Keobounphan to only 15th in the 55-member Central Committee.

General Sisavat had played an important role in border negotiations with the Thai military, which have seen the two sides agree to pull back their forces in a bid to ease tension.

"There was some feeling he got too actively involved in business in terms of dealing with potential (foreign) investors and business types," one envoy said.

But analysts did not think Gen. Sisavat's fall would affect improving relations between the neighbours.

Commerce Minister Khamphoui Keoboualapha was the dark horse of the elections, making a spectacular leap from 44th in the Central Committee to 10th in the 11-member Politburo.

"The rumour is he might take the place (of late Politburo member) Sali Vongkhamsao as minister of planning and finance," a diplomat said.

"Some of the promotions are quite interesting," an observer said, pointing to the elevation of First Vice Minister of Planning and Finance Khamsai Souphanouvong to the Central Committee, of which he had previously only been an alternate member. The Moscow-trained son of the red prince was being tipped for a major portfolio, the observer added.

The premier's son, deputy governor of Savannakhet Province Saisomphon Phomvihan, also made it onto the Central Committee for the first time.

It was unclear whether dynastic ambitions were behind these two moves but Prince Souphanouvong admitted to journalists that his children were among the younger generation keen to break into the leadership.

Other notable climbers included Phao Bounnaphon, the minister of economic relations and a graduate of France's Saint Cyr Military Academy, who moved up to number 16 in the Central Committee and Communications Minister Bouathong, who also made a significant leap.

Industry Minister Soulivong Dalavong, described as "one of their younger and brighter technocrats," joined the Central Committee for the first time, while rising star Deputy Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulit was also promoted.

"Clearly they're trying to ensure that youth and expertise are represented in the Central Committee," one observer said.

On the political front, several observers believed the congress made a mistake by retaining too many orthodox communist trappings, including playing the Internationale at Friday's closing and trumpeting the leading party role to excess.

The same result could have been achieved with more modesty and without putting off the Western world, they said.

"What they need is a good (public relations) man," remarked one observer.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kaysone's position in the party "will remain unchallenged and he will continue to push the open door, liberalism and market economy" policies.

According to one analyst, however, Mr. Kaysone has "become quite pragmatic" and has realised "the country cannot be dependent solely on outside assistance."

The personnel changes attested to this, with experts and technocrats being introduced in areas where Laos can develop its own resources, such as hydroelectric power, minerals and tourism.

Prince Souphanouvong on Multiparty System

BK3103021891 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Mar 91 p A4

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Vientiane—Top Laotian leader Prince Souphanouvong said on Friday that his country is not ready for a multi-party election.

Prince Souphanouvong told reporters this after stepping down as a member of the politburo along with two other veteran members, Phoumi Vongvichit and Sisomphon Lovansai.

The future of Lao politics would depend on the country's political evolution and its people, he said.

The political report of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress has made clear that the party will continue to lead the country.

After his retirement, the legendary "Red Prince", Phoumi and Sisomphon were immediately appointed members of the Advisory Committee of the Party's Central Committee, which follows the Vietnamese pattern.

He said the party is pushing the younger generation including his son, Khamsai Souphanouvong, into the central committee, the party's policy-making body. Kaysone's son Saisompheng Phomvihan, also was promoted to the central committee.

Souphanouvong said that the outcome of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary's Party showed the continuity of the people in Laos that emphasises economic reforms.

Asked whether what happened in East Europe could happen in Laos, he said: "Everything is possible. Everything depends on everyone".

Souphanouvong who answered questions in French, said that his country's communism is not different from other countries' communism. "We cannot alter the nature of communism. We can only define it in our own way and according to our wish," he said.

The prince and other leaders helped the Pathet Lao movement based in Sam Nueo to victory on Dec 2, 1975 and tookover Laos from the rightwing government of Prince Souvanna Phouma.

Meanwhile, Lao Armed Forces Chief Gen Sisavat Keobounphan was demoted from the powerful politburo at the end of the party's 5th congress but a senior Lao official said the move would not harm the on-going excellent Thai-Lao relations.

The flamboyant army chief is well-known in Thailand as the chief negotiator with the Thai military leaders when the two countries went to war briefly over the disputed area of Ban Romkhlao at the 1987 [as published].

Laotian Vice Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulit told reporters after the end of the 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress that Gen Sisavat will still be responsible for military affairs and the security situation along 1,600-km Thai-Lao border. "With the new politburo, I am sure Thai-Lao relations will be strengthened even further," he said.

Gen Sisavat is also a close friend of former army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who is now the leader of the New Aspiration Party. Recently he and his Thai counterpart Gen Suchinda Khraprayun agreed in Vientiane to pullout troops from a dispute area along the Thai-Lao border.

Gen Sisavat, who is also the mayor of Vientiane, retains his membership in the 55-member Central Committee.

Thongloun said that Laos will continue with its economic reforms and forge closer ties with foreign countries.

A Senior Cambodian official, in the meantime, said on Friday that the Phnom Penh delegation had not conducted any discussion with the Chinese delegation during their participation in the just concluded 5th Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress.

Vice Foreign Minister Sok An said that the delegation, which was led by President Heng Samrin and Prime Minister Hun Sen, were here primarily to attend the party congress.

"We have not talked to them (the Chinese)," Sok An said.

Pu Chaozhu, a central committee member of the Chinese Communist Party, was here for the same function which led to speculations that Pu would meet with Heng Samrin on ways to end the 12-year-old Cambodian conflict. Beijing does not recognize the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government and has been trying to overthrow it by supporting the Cambodian resistance coalition.

Philippines

Further on Kidnapping of French Priest

BK3103120091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1150 GMT 31 Mar 91

[By Carol Arguillas]

[Text] Cotabato, Philippines, March 31 (AFP)—Kidnappers of a French Roman Catholic missionary want ransom for his release, but the local archbishop here said Sunday the church will not bow to their demands. Archbishop Philip Smith said that Father Yves Caroff, 66, abducted Wednesday in nearby Maguindanao Province, has told his religious superiors in a letter that his abductors are asking for ransom.

"We'd like to talk, (but) we will not pay ransom. We're very firm on that," Archbishop Smith told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE after initial efforts to contact the kidnappers failed on the weekend. He said paying ransom would not be "a good example" because if the church gives in to the demand, kidnappings "will go on endlessly."

He refused to say how much the kidnappers were asking for, and declined to comment on a report in Manila's DAILY INQUIRER newspaper that the kidnappers wanted 10 million pesos (357,000 dollars).

It was also unknown how Fr. Caroff's letter reached his superiors.

The Philippines is predominantly Roman Catholic, but Islam is strongly entrenched here on the southern island

of Mindanao, where bandits and Moslem separatists have been active since the 1970s.

Maguindanao Governor Norodin Matalam said he got word from his informants that Fr. Caroff was alive and well, and said government forces were "ready to move" as soon as they pinpoint the location of the kidnappers.

But he expressed a willingness to give negotiations a chance, despite a government policy against bargaining with kidnappers. Church officials have asked the military to withhold rescue efforts.

Fr. Caroff, a 66-year-old native of Brittany belonging to the oblates of Mary Immaculate Order, has been in the Philippines for 10 years. He was assigned to a parish in Timanan Town, populated by Christians, Moslems and mountain tribesmen. He was the first foreign victim of local kidnap-for-ransom gangs who in recent months focused on wealthy Chinese-Filipino businessmen and their families in this city.

Another French priest, Fr. Michele Gigord, was kidnapped in 1986 in Marawi City, north of Cotabato, but was freed unharmed.

Fr. Caroff was headed for his parish when gunmen stopped his jeep Wednesday. His driver was released with a note stating a radio frequency which church authorities could call to reach the kidnappers. But a church emissary sent to Timanan to get in touch with the kidnappers said on Sunday that he could not find any trace of the kidnappers, who did not respond to radio calls. "I was going from place to place, but I didn't find them," Father Jose Ante, president of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato, said after returning empty-handed from Maguindanao in search of Fr. Caroff.

"We've got to get talking. We want to convince them father Caroff is not anti-Moslem but pro-Moslem," Archbishop Smith said. "We've asked (the military) to go slow, and not to make any attacks because we're trying to protect the life of Fr. Caroff," he added. "Our best hope is communication."

Kidnap gangs operating in and around Cotabato are believed to be former guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front, a group that once campaigned for a separate Moslem state.

On Saturday, a 22-year-old meat dealer, Robinson de la Gala, was kidnapped in a commercial district in Cotabato, apparently by the same group holding Fr. Caroff, police said.

Four other Filipinos, including two university professors, remain in the hands of kidnappers.

Vigilante Group Organized

HK0104051491 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[By Charlie Senase]

[Text] Cotabato City—A vigilante group of 255 armed men from the 17 towns of Maguindanao has been organized by the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao to pursue members of a Muslim kidnap syndicate in the region and rescue their victims, Gov. Zacaria Candao said Sunday.

The move came in the wake of a spate of kidnappings in the province. The two most recent victims were Fr. Yves Caroff, 66, of the Oblate of Mary Immaculate and businessman Robinson de Gala, 22, both of this city.

Among the suspects in the Caroff and De Gala kidnappings were military and police officials.

The armed vigilante group, led by Maguindanao Gov. Norodin Matalam, will coordinate with the military.

Candao described the series of kidnapping as just a "passing scene."

This developed as the kidnappers of Fr. Caroff in South Upi, Maguindanao reportedly led by a certain "Commander Tora-Tora" had not communicated, as of yesterday, their demands for the French priest's release.

Sources from the Roman Catholic church here said there were unconfirmed reports that his kidnappers allegedly demanded a P [Philippine pesos] 10-million ransom for his freedom.

Archbishop Philip Smith, however, said, "First of all, we do not know what their demands are. We cannot answer any questions until we know what these are."

Even Fr. Jose Ante, who had just arrived from a two-day negotiation with the suspects, said there was also no demand yet from the kidnappers.

He said he believed the priest's kidnappers were not from South Upi. Smith was uncertain if "Commander Tora-Tora" belonged to the group of Abogado Mubarak, tagged by the military as the alleged brains behind the rash of kidnappings here.

He also said he was not sure if the suspects were Muslims or Christians. Last year, he said, when trouble broke out in South Upi, Christian residents reacted, prompting Fr. Caroff to come to the defense of the Muslims.

Caroff's intervention made the Christians angry, he added.

The military had volunteered to assist in rescuing the French friar, but the archbishop told them to stay put and not to conduct any operation against the suspects.

Smith said he had earlier received a note from Caroff's driver, warning the military to "keep out, otherwise Fr. Caroff might lose his head."

Four others kidnapped earlier had the same threats on their lives.

Marino Ridao's kin were asked to put up P5 million tomorrow.

The family of businessman Roberto Padlan had been asked to raise P5 million, but no deadline has been set.

De Gala's mother Leonarda refused to comment on her son's case, except to say he was "safe."

Thailand

Ministry Protests U.S. Rice Sale to Philippines

BK2903160091 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on stated to newsmen this afternoon that the Commerce Ministry has sent a letter of protest to the U.S. Government over its sale of 63,000 metric tons of rice to the Philippines under a long-term credit covering 30 years of payments and at a price 27 percent lower than the Thai rice price. This constitutes a support for U.S. farmers and exporters contrary to U.S. Government claims that it is campaigning for a reform of farm trade and an end to farm subsidies.

The U.S. move is deplorable because it is tantamount to unfairly snatching away a Thai rice market. Thailand does not resort to subsidies as a means to cut prices of rice sold in the world markets. The move taken by the U.S. Government will affect the credibility of the United States at the Uruguay Round of talks.

For centuries rice has been an economic crop of great significance for the Thai people. There are currently about 20 million rice farmers in Thailand. Thailand exports five-six million metric tons of rice annually. Meanwhile, the United States has only over 10,000 rice farmers and exports only over two million tons of rice annually. By proportion, rice farming and exporting is of greater significance for the life of the Thai people than for the people in the United States.

We therefore would like to call upon the U.S. Government to review its rice export policy in this category and take into account the effects it has on other countries. The United States should also stop giving long-term credits in the future.

Anan May Visit U.S., Japan 'To Shore Up' Image

BK0104025191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun may have to visit the U.S. and Japan to shore up Thailand's bruised image and personally secure a promise of high-level representation at the World Bank-IMF meeting in Bangkok later this year, according to informed sources.

Not only the Prime Minister but "other Cabinet members who are well-known to the international community" will have to travel abroad, particularly to Japan and the U.S. to ensure the success of the image-building campaign following the February 23 coup which toppled the elected government of prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan, the sources said.

Besides Premier Anan, the caretaker administration includes respected former diplomats such as Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, Prime Minister's Office Minister M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, and Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun. They are seen as the line-up of a Thai delegation to pacify the West and Japan.

At a meeting of senior officials last week, the Foreign Ministry assessed the progress of efforts taken so far to assure the world community that the National Peace-Keeping Council is taking steps to restore full-fledged democracy to Thailand with the drafting of a new constitution that will lead to general elections by April next year at the latest.

Among the major repercussions of the coup is Thailand's tarnished image in the eyes of the world, and this constitutes the immediate task of the Foreign Ministry, sources said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said the U.S. and Japan are definitely on the itinerary for Mr Anan's visit.

On assuming responsibility, the interim administration, including Foreign Minister Asa, thought it would stay home and concentrate on domestic priorities. However, there is now a strong need to continue the momentum of the "image-building campaign" by sending ministers on overseas trips to repair the coup-damaged image of Thailand.

Mr Asa is scheduled to attend the ASEAN-EC Foreign Minister's meeting in Luxembourg on May 30 and 31, which will be followed by the Economic Ministers' meeting on June 1 at the same venue.

A tour of Washington and Tokyo is being planned for Mr Anan. The purpose of this tour, as well as Mr Asa's trip to Luxembourg, is to lobby foreign finance ministers, treasurers and bank governors to attend the World bank-International Monetary Fund forum which Thailand will host in October.

While in Luxembourg, Mr Asa will meet European bankers and top businessmen to spread the message that "it's business as usual in Thailand" after the coup.

Before the ASEAN-EC dialogue, the Foreign Minister will visit ASEAN capitals, which will have received Thailand's third Foreign Minister since last August.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu is tentatively due to tour ASEAN countries between late April and early May, and an invitation for the Thai Prime Minister to visit Tokyo could be forthcoming.

According to a Japanese Foreign Ministry official, public opinion in Japan remains highly critical of the military overthrow of an elected government in Thailand.

Although a civilian-dominated interim administration is in place, the Japanese public still questions the extent of the military's control over the Anan Government.

Military Bombards Feuding Drug Armies in Burma

Official Says Blitz To Continue

BK3003014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Chiang Mai—The Thai military kept up its bombardment of two feuding drug armies just over the Burmese border yesterday, relentlessly pounding its fifth target while a spokesman said there were still five more to go.

And inside Thailand, jittery drug dealers were scurrying to get their deadly cargo over the border as the military pressed on with a simultaneous swoop on narcotics traders.

The Thai attacks on Burmese soil are aimed at drug warlord Khun Sa's private army and Wa rebels.

Both are engaged in a bloody feud for control of narcotics routes.

And a senior Thai military officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the blitz on the rebel strongholds would continue until the two armies retreated 3-5 kilometres from the Thai border.

In Mae Ai District, Thai army gunners lobbed several 105-mm artillery shells on a base of suspected United Wa State Army troopers on Doi Man Phong all afternoon.

The warring Burmese factions are fighting for control of narcotics routes and heroin laboratories within about a kilometre from the border.

The officer said Doi Man Phong was the fifth target shelled out of a total of 10. Four other targets had already been seized by Thai troops, he said.

The operation has forced rebels to move their narcotics across the border for safe-keeping, an authoritative source said yesterday.

Air strikes were out yesterday, however, for the second day in a row. Visibility remained poor preventing the army OV10 counter- insurgency planes from flying.

A pilot told BANGKOK POST reporter Subin Khunkaeo he could not see his colleague in another plane yet they were flying in close formation.

While army gunners pounded the feuding forces for the third consecutive day, police here seized a sizeable quantity of heroin and raw opium. In the two separate incidents two tribesmen were killed.

At about 4.30 p.m. in front of the McCormick Hospital in the provincial seat, an anti-narcotic police squad, led by Pol Cpt Dutsadi Arayawuthi, swooped on a pick-up truck. It was suspected of carrying a consignment of heroin to a potential buyer.

One of the two occupants, later identified as Warayut Kalae from Chiang Rai, took out a Chinese-made hand grenade and tried to hurl it at the approaching policemen. He was shot dead on the spot.

His colleague, 20-year old Narong Niching, also from Chiang Rai, was arrested.

A search of the truck allegedly revealed 14 kgs of high-grade heroin in 40 blocks. The drug was estimated at having a local wholesale value of 2.8 million baht.

Meanwhile, in Mae Rim District, Border Patrol policemen [BPP] killed a Muser tribesman and another was arrested following a clash with an opium caravan. Police seized 36 kilogrammes of raw opium after the mini-war.

Pol Col Kunchet Singhara na Ayutthaya, commander of the 33rd BPP Command, said a team of 14 BPP members was despatched to Ban Nongtao in Tambon Mon Pin after a tipoff there would be a delivery of heroin and raw opium to traders in the village. The clash took place at 5.30 a.m.

The caravan, comprising 13 tribesmen of Muser and Haw origin—all armed—arrived at the village and opened fire when ordered to surrender. The tribesmen fled the scene after a 15-minute firefight. Police arrested Chalae Jawa, 37, a Muser and found the body of a man called Along, 35.

Khun Sa Army Retreats 2 km From Border

BK3003020191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Mar 91 p 1

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] Chiang Mai—About 200 soldiers belonging to drug kingpin Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army yesterday pulled back two kilometres from the Thai-Burmese border after being bombarded with Thai artillery for the third consecutive day yesterday, military sources said.

The attack lasted about two hours after the Thai army found that its demand for the Burmese ethnic force to move at least two kilometres away from the Thai frontier had not been heeded, according to the sources.

"The Thai military want the forces loyal to Khun Sa to keep a distance from the border to minimize possible spillovers that could cause casualties among Thai villagers," one source said.

Both Khun Sa's army and its rival, Wa National Army, known for their drug trafficking acitivities, are equipped with mortar launchers with an operating range of about two kilometres, the sources said. Both sides have been engaged in border clashes to secure strategic positions and trafficking routes on the Thai-Burmese border.

Artillery batteries, equipped with 105mm guns, under the Third Army Region based at Ban Ta Ton in Mae Ai district, started pounding Khun Sa army's encampment located in an area known as Doi Laktaeng, about a kilometre from the Thai border at around 2.30 pm, they said.

The Thai military stopped the shelling after Khun Sa's guerrillas informed Thai authorities in a radio message that they were retreating deeper into Burma to a distance of at least two kilometres, as demanded by the Thai side.

"We did not really want to use force against the Khun Sa force. But we have to put pressure on them until they comply with our demand," one of the sources said. "The use of force is also aimed at deterring any alien forces against carrying out any border fighting that could harm Thai villagers."

The Thai troops would cancel their military drive against both Khun Sa and Wa fores as soon as they have left all strategic positions as demanded.

Meanwhile, officials from the United States consulate in Chiang Mai yesterday met the Thai army commander responsible for the offensive against the ethnic forces. They also discussed possible raids on makeshift heroin-producing plants along the border area.

Burmese Rebels 3-5 km From Border

BK3103020091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Five days of relentless artillery bombardment backed by air strikes have forced two embattled Golden Triangle drug armies in Burma to meet Thailand's demand to get well away from the border.

Heroin tsar Khun Sa's Muang Tai [MTA] troops and the United Wa State Army [UWSA] yesterday agreed to withdraw 3-5 kilometres from the Thai border, as Thailand had insisted.

The two warring factions observed a ceasefire yesterday and the Thai artillery also fell silent.

Khun Sa's troops and the Wa have been locked in combat over control of lucrative heroin caravan routes.

BANGKOK POST reporter Subin Kheunkaeo reported from a Thai base at the border in Mae Ai that the Thai Army appeared to be satisfied with the agreement by the MTA and the UWSA to move 3-5 kilometres from the border.

Two representatives from each faction yesterday met with officers of the Third Army Region to express their intention to comply with the request, said an informed sources.

Thai officers were also invited to inspect their bases to verify the withdrawal, the source said.

Khun Sa's close aide, Khunsai Chaiyen, who represented the MTA at truce talks with Thai Army officers told the BANGKOK POST he was pleased with Thailand's intervention to bring an end to the fighting for control of the opium and heroin trade in the region.

The rolling, mist-covered hills contested by the two armies are part of the poppy-growing Golden Triangle, source of the bulk of the world's illicit supply of opium and heroin.

Khunsai said the MTA was willing to comply with Thailand's request, but asked for some time to dismantle their bases. He claimed his troops had already abandoned more than 10 bases in the disputed area.

Representatives of the two warring factions will meet Thai officers again today to provide their answers about how long they will take to dismantle their bases, the source said.

Khunsai claimed the MTA sustained only three deaths and 12 wounded in the past five days of air strikes and artillery bombardment by the Thai Army to push the feuding armies deeper into Burma. He estimated Wa casualties ran between 50 and 100.

The Thai army blitz followed a stray shell which landed on a small islet in Tha Ton, a popular tourist spot for Western backpackers, killing three Thai villagers.

Khunsai said the latest round of clashes between his forces and the Wa began on March 24 when Wa fighters ambushed and killed 29 of his fighters. He said their long rivalry had killed about 800 MTA troopers and 2,000 Wa guerrillas, including a combined 195 death toll in the past two weeks.

He claimed that there were nine heroin laboratories in the region when the MTA first came there nine years ago. Now, only one remains and it is operated by the UWSA, he said.

Khunsai said they would stop fighting the Wa "if they stop expanding their territory". He also said they might try to hold peace talks with the Wa to end their territorial feud. But an army source said the Third Army Region still wanted to see the two armies withdraw from Doi Lang to prevent a possible spillover of fighting.

Talks are expected soon the persuade the two factions to comply with Thailand's request, the source added.

King Opens National Legislative Assembly Session

BK2903154891 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1200 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] His Majesty the King at 1715 today left Chitlada Palace for the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall for the ceremonial inauguration of the National Legislative Assembly Session. After the king ascended the throne, the royal anthem was played. The king then delivered a speech and declared the session open:

[Begin King Phumiphon recording] The performance of members of the National Legislative Assembly is very significant for national security and the welfare of the people. All of you should therefore do your best in using your judgment and capability to serve to the fullest the responsibilities of this assembly—that is, the drafting of a constitution and the pursuing of legislative work. Any discussion or agreement over particular substance or problems in this assembly should be based on good reasons and principles, in a spirit of unity and sincere cooperation. This will enable you to achieve successes in the interests of the country.

It is now an auspicious moment. I therefore declare open the session of the National Legislative Assembly so it can perform its duty under provisions in the Charter of the Kingdom of 1991. May the Buddhist Triple Gems and

all universal powers bless the work of the assembly and make it smooth and free from all obstacles. May you fulfill the accomplishments as desired, as this will contribute to the stability and prosperity of our country and people. May all of you who are attending this function be blessed with happiness and prosperity. [end recording]

Suchinda Denies Rumored Plans To Establish Party

BK0104025391 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun yesterday denied rumours that he was planning to set up a political party in the hope of becoming Thailand's next prime minister.

"I've told you I'm not going to be playing politics," said Gen Suchinda, deputy leader of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC).

Suchinda was speaking to reporters at the Chunlachomklao Military Academy where he attended a ceremony to mark HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon's birthday tomorrow.

Rumours had it that Suchinda's close aides were trying to persuade former MPs to join a party to be set up to back the army chief, who was instrumental in the Feb 23 military coup that toppled the Chatchai government.

The rumours coincided with reports of rifts between the coup leaders and former military chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, who is now leading the New Aspiration Party.

Chawalit has come out to attack the NPKC for its proposals to limit politicians' access to Cabinet posts and increase bureaucrats' political power. Some critics have charged that the proposals are an attempt by the military to cling to power after the general election the NPKC has promised to hold early next year.

Suchinda yesterday also rejected growing calls for the military to revoke martial law imposed after the power seizure.

Political activists have asked caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to scrap martial law.

The army chief implied that the prime minister had no power to comply with the activists' demand.

"The NPKC imposed martial law, and we have to consider the legal aspects" of whether the government can revoke it, he said.

"Martial law can't be lifted at the moment," the army chief said.

The NPKC has claimed that martial law was necessary because "underground elements" were still a threat to national security. Labour leaders have also been prevented by martial law from staging protests against the NPKC's plan to limit or ban union activities at state enterprises.

Responding to criticism that the NPKC was trying to dictate the drafting of Thailand's new Constitution, Suchinda said a committee to be set up to draw up the Constitution would comprise qualified people.

He said most members of the committee to be set up by the interim National Assembly would not be assembly members. Some former MPs would also be invited to join the committee, he said.

Suchinda added that members of the ad hoc committee have been selected and their names are expected to be announced this week.

Suchinda: No Need To Probe Officers' Assets

BK0104024591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1 Apr 91 p 1

[Text] A leader of the military junta which set up a committee to investigate former Cabinet members on corruption charges said yesterday military leaders who appear unusually wealthy need not be investigated in the same way because they "may be rich because of their wives."

Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC)'s No 2 leader, said it would be enough for senior military officials' assets to be checked by the Counter Corruption Commission (CCC).

Following its seizure of power on Feb 23, the NPKC set up a powerful committee headed by former interior minister Sit Chirarot to investigate 23 former Cabinet members. They included toppled prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Suchinda said yesterday that before senior military officials took office they had had to submit financial statements to the CCC.

So, it is "not necessary to have them investigated by any other committee." The army chief was responding to criticism by some politicians who said last week that it was unfair to have only politicians probed by the powerful committee.

"Who knows? (Some military officials) may have rich wives," Suchinda said. "For example, my wife could have a piece of land worth Bt500 million."

Vietnam

U.S. Senator Kerry Arrives in Hanoi 30 Mar

BK0104153891 Hanoi VNA in English 1350 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 1—U.S. Senator Robert Kerry arrived in Hanoi Saturday for a visit as representative of Senator George Mitchell, leader of the Democratic Party in the American Senate.

The U.S. senator and his party were received by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi and held talks with Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. The two sides exchanged views on issues of bilateral relations and other

issues of common concern. The meetings took place in an atmosphere of openness and mutual understanding.

The American guests have also called on the Hanoi Prosthetic Technology Research Centre which was set up recently with assistance from a non-governmental organization in the United States.

They left Hanoi this morning for Ho Chi Minh City before a scheduled visit to Phnom Penh.

Accord With Laos on Communications Cooperation

BK3003083091 Hanoi VNA in English 0708 GMT 30 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 30—A delegation of the Lao Ministry of Communications, Posts and Construction led by its Vice Minister Thongsavath Paseuth paid a visit to Vietnam from March 24-28. It had working sessions with Dang Van Than, director general of the Vietnam Posts and Telecommunications Corporation. The two sides reviewed their cooperation in 1990, and signed new cooperation documents between the two services in 1991, including cooperation and assistance in training personnel, supplying new technical equipment, building telecommunications facilities and exchanging experiences on the renewal of production and business.

Vo Chi Cong, Do Muoi Attend Youth Anniversary

BK2903025991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Report on ceremony held in Hanoi on 25 March by Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union Central Committee to mark the union's 60th anniversary—portions recorded]

[Summary] "This afternoon, 25 March, the Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] held a grand ceremony at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi to mark the 60th founding anniverary of the HCMCYU, 26 March 1931-26 March 1991. Attending were Vo Chi Cong, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of State; Pham Van Dong, adviser to the party Central Committee; Do Muoi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the National Assembly; and Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee. Also present were many other members of the Political Bureau and Secretariat, numerous party and state leaders, and representatives of various departments, sectors, and mass organizations at the center and in Hanoi. A large number of veteran revolutionaries; heroes of the armed forces and their mothers and wives; representatives of people's journalists, people's artists, and people's physicians; scientists; writers and artists; members of the diplomatic corps and several international organizations in Hanoi; members of the diplomatic corps; numerous former HCMCYU cadres; and many union cadres, members, and children were also on hand."

At 1400, the ceremony began. Ha Quang Du, first secretary of the HCMCYU Central Committee, delivered a speech. He said:

[Begin recording] "This day 60 years ago, during the days of seething revolution, the Indochinese Communist Youth Union, now the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, was founded with the solicitous care of the Communist Party of Vietnam and of the venerated and beloved Uncle Ho. Over the past half a century and more, the struggle for independence, freedom, and national reunification of our people under the party's banner have on countless occasions had to face extremely fierce trials. However, under any circumstances and conditions, various young generations of Vietnamese, with their militant vanguard—the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union—have always closed their ranks around the glorious party and remained unwaveringly loyal to its ideal. Thanks to this, they have recorded glorious exploits." [end recording]

The conference hall resounded with warm applause when Nguyen Thanh Binh, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, took the floor. "On behalf of the party and state, he warmly welcomed the fighting spirit of the union and the results it has obtained in all fields of activity over the past 60 years. At the same time, he pointed to the tasks of the union and the youth movement in the current period of national renovation. He stressed the need to improve the training of the young generations and promote their all-round development, to create material conditions and devise adequate policies for resolving the most urgent problems currently facing young people, such as employment and study. The HCMCYU should be made really stable and strong in conjunction with an effort to broaden its study activities, and to unite youths of all strata through the work of various youth associations, and in accordance with professional requirements and personal preference. This is aimed at serving the interests of both the young people themselves and of the country.

"Nguyen Thanh Binh said in conclusion:

[Begin recording] "The Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union and the Vietnam Youth Union are the bridges between the party and young generations. To make the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union stable and strong, and to set up several youth associations within the Vietnam Youth Union are necessary to organize the entire young generation into a powerful force under the banner of the party's leadership. If we succeed in doing this, there will be no task too difficult for us to accomplish, no force strong enough to obstruct the development of our fatherland on the path chosen by Uncle Ho.

"Dear Comrades, by issuing the Resolution on Renovating and Strengtheningg the Party's Leadership on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, the Political Bureau wishes to

see the youth moverment in our country make a new step of development to be worthy of the youths' role in national construction and defense in the new period. The Political Bureau also wants all sectors, levels, and families to wholeheartedly care for the healthy development of our country's young generations and to train them to be a highly creative assault force which will take the lead in the renovation process along the line of socialism."[applause] [end recording]

The ceremony closed amid the stirring sounds of the "March of Youth of the Ho Chi Minh Generation."

Further Reportage on Holding of Party Congresses

Gia Lam District

BK3003134291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] From 25 to 27 March, the Gia Lam district party committee in Hanoi successfully held the first round party congress.

Before starting the congress, 129 primary party organizations with 13,400 members had held political activities to contribute opinions to the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress. The primary party organizations also held meetings to implement Directive No. 19 on strengthening the grass-root organizations.

Gia Lam District solved all the people's complaints, and helped families facing difficulties in life and in production. At the congress, the representatives concentrated efforts, democratically contributed many opinions, discussed clarification of the contents of the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress, unanimously opposed multi-party systems and political pluralism, and showed determination in the socialist route.

The Gia Lam party congress outlined activity programs to advance to the second round congress as follows: concentration on tending the fifth-month rice crop, preparation of seedlings and materials for the ten-month rice crop in order to plant all areas on time with good technique and good productivity, attempts to reach the food production target of 52,000 tonnes in 1991, restoration of the livestock raising movement, and motivation of families to improve the garden fishpond stable economy.

In the commerce sector, the district changed to the cost accounting system, rearranged the production force, improved capital management, tried to provide enough jobs for the laborers, and intensified the orderly and secure work.

Hanoi Polytechnic College

BK3003115191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] On 27 March, the party committee of the Polytechnic College held its first round party congress. More than 180 professors, their assistants, doctors of philosophy representing nearly 700 party members of the college attended the congress.

After hearing the college party secretary's report on the opinions of cadres and party members on the party draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress, the representatives enthusiastically supported new views and ways of thinking contained in the Seventh Party Congress' documents.

When discussing education and training policies, many representatives suggested that the past general education renovation program be strictly evaluated and quickly adjusted, strengthened, expanded, and enhanced to meet strategic needs.

The representatives suggested forming a technical education program and modifying its tertiary and vocational middle school system. They also said a college must be a center of culture, science, and industrial training. They suggested starting post-graduation programs in the country. Many believe that there are alarming problems with respect to teaching conditions, equipment, and the quality of students. The graduates are not used and properly retrained, thus causing low productivity. Colleges also do not influence society positively. It is necessary to develop and improve the quality of social and human sciences as foundations for internal and foreign economic and social policies.

The representatives who attended the congress of the Hanoi Polytechnic College elected representatives to attend the 11th party congress of Hanoi City.

Hai Ba Trung District

BK3103112591 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The Hanoi's Hai Ba Trung District recently held its first round 20th party organization congress with the participation of more than 300 delegates.

Attending the congress were Comrade Nguyen Duc Tam, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau, and Comrades Pham The Duyet and Tran Ly Vi, representing the municipal party committee.

The congress spent two days listening to 35 reports presented by delegates from party chapters of subwards, agencies, and enterprises of the district.

Many delegates contributed concrete ideas to the documents of the upcoming Seventh CPV Congress. Most of the delegates expressed their identity of views to the basic contents of chapter six of the platform on socialist construction for the transition period. They asserted that the CPV is the sole political force leading the Vietnamese revolution to victories, and that pluralism and the muti-party system is not necessary in Vietnam.

The congress elected 57 delegates to attend party organization congresses of the higher echelons with 60-90 percent of votes in favor of them.

Haiphong's Kien Thuy District

BK3103110291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Haiphong's Kien Thuy District recently held its first round party organization congresses. During the preparation, the municipal party committee urged its standing committees to closely monitor the local situation and provide guidances to basic party organizations.

Thanks to this careful and serious preparation, delegates to these congresses contributed meaningful ideas to various issues in the strategy to comprehensively develop agriculture, build new rural areas and new socialist men, and strengthen the people's right to mastery.

The congresses elected suitable delegates to party organization congresses at the higher echelons.

Phu Yen Province

BK3103102791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] More than 380 basic party organizations of 11 districts, towns, and corresponding levels in Phu Yen Province have completed their first round party organization congresses.

Delegates to these congresses contributed thousands of ideas to the draft documents of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Congress. Most of the delegates expressed their identity of views to the CPV Central Committee's determination to advance further on the socialist path chosen by the party and Uncle Ho.

Many delegates suggested that the part dealing with the party in the draft platform should clearly define the working class characteristics and the absolute leadership role of the party, and that the draft revision to the party regulations should stress measures to eliminate exploitation.

The Phu Yen first round party organization congresses have elected more than 1,000 competent delegates to attend higher echelons party organizations congresses.

Thai Binh Province

BK3103132291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] About 900 basic party organizations of Thai Binh Province have finished their first round congresses with the participation of 83 percent of the party membership. Delegates to these congresses contributed many ideas to the draft documents of the Seventh Communist Party of Vietnam Congress.

Delegates from party organizations in the rural areas discussed in length the peasants' right to use land for agriculture. Many delegates suggested that peasant land ownership should be promoted and that cultivated areas should be allocated to households for a period from 10-15 years to enable peasants to concentrate on intensive cultivation.

Many delegates contributed ideas to the draft revision of the party regulations, suggesting that party members should be allowed to engage in private economic activities.

The congresses elected 1,595 delegates to attend higher echelons party organization congresses. Out of this 17 members of grass-roots party committees were deleted from the list after pleading guilty to violating rules.

Thanh Chuong District

BK0104153191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Thanh Chuong district in Nghe Tinh Province recently held its first round 25th party organization congress. The congress proceeded in a democratic atmosphere. Many delegates were of the opinion that the party documents were carefully drafted and contained many important issues.

Prior to this congress, various basic party organization congresses discussed the party lines and policies on various issues. They also appraised initial results scored by the renovation cause since the Sixth Party Congress and hailed the party for its efforts to overcome numerous difficulties, shortcomings, and mistakes.

Delegates to the Thanh Chuong district party organization congress supported the party Central Committee's determination to implement the renovation cause and to advance along the path chosen by the party and Uncle Ho.

The congress also adopted a program of action aimed at accelerating the winter-spring crop production, making preparations for the summer-fall crop, striving to overcome difficulties during the preharvest lean period, and maintaining security and social order and safety, thereby scoring achievements to welcome the Seventh CPV Congress.